



Hundred : Small Beginnings

スモール・ビギニングス

[hundred]

Misaki Jun

箕崎准

大熊猫介 (ミトロフラス)

Illustration

GA文庫

Hundred

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by Jun Misaki

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レイティア・サンテミリオン

武芸家一年。
リベリア合衆国出身。

ブリッツ・グランツ

レイティアの幼なじみ。
軽い。

霧島サクラ

世界的な人気を
誇る歌姫。

瑠璃姫

皇国ヤマトの第一皇女。
通称姫殿正。
過去にエミリアと接点がある。

如月カレン

ハヤトの妹。
遂にアイドルとして
デビューを果たす。

ジュダール・ハーヴェイ

クレアの兄。
ワルスラーン社の
実質的な支配者。

如月ハヤト

本作品の主人公。
歴代一位のハンドレッド
反応数値を誇る。

クレア・ハーヴェイ

リトルガーデンを束ねる
生徒会長。

リザ・ハーヴェイ

名門ハーヴェイ家の末子。
人類最初の感染体。

エミリア・ハーミット

ハヤトの同級生。その正体は
グーテンブルグ王国のお姫様。

剣崎トウカ

ハヤトの師匠である
リョウセイの姪。

HUNDRED



く、唇っ……!!?
これで……キ、キス……!!?

カレンの顎をもち優しく唇を重ねるリザ。
理解すると同時に、カレンの身体が硬直する。
お互いの唇の間で、混じり合う唾液が音を立てていた。



Prologue

Around the time when the sun was about to rise from the horizon.

A girl stood on the roof of the observation deck at the front part of Little Garden.

Naturally, it's not a place where people can come.

There's no railing, making obvious that there's no handrail, so if a person falls from this place it won't end with minor injuries.

However, her body isn't shaking, nor her face is revealing an expression of fear, the girl just stared motionlessly at Little Garden which began to dye in sunrise colors.

– It's so beautiful...

A gorgeous golden hair.

Liza Harvey is the name of the girl, thorny ivies are entwined many times on her non-disgraced beautiful white skin.

For the sake of Claire Harvey, who's away from this ship to participate in the World Martial Arts Tournament, she, who's her little sister, is now like a guardian deity of Little Garden.

– At last, she came back...

While staring at the distance, Liza murmured deep in emotion.

A delightful smile is showing on her mouth.

Two aircrafts are approaching, both of them are transport aircrafts owned by Little Garden and Claire is using the <<Little Garden Personal Airplane>> WL – 03.

Claire and the Slayers belonging to Little Garden are on board of them.

– Welcome back. And, good job. To Nee-san, and to the brave warriors of Little Garden——

It's thanks to her elder sister Claire and the other Slayers that a lot of people

can grasp the refreshing awakening in the morning, under this lovely orange color of the beautiful sky.

Liza thinks from the bottom of her heart.

My older brother, Judal, can go to the moon.

I'm approaching the wish of Linis, my mother.

It's all thanks to you, and.

– Congratulations for the championship.

At the same time she spilled those words of celebration, her figure disappeared from above the observation deck.

※ ※ ※

– The outward appearance of the human beings from approximately 100.000 years ago, that is, their shape, isn't apparently different from that of the modern people. However, after a period of approximately 50.000 years, mankind has hardly evolved.

A lesson was held in the middle school second year classroom of Little Garden.

It's about the human evolution.

The female teacher continues speaking in front of the white board.

– But, around 40.000 years and a little ago, human beings achieved what is called the <<Great Leap Forward>> on evolution. They began to acquire complex languages, like doing hunting and fishing using bone tools and stone implements, and reached the point to wear clothes. Another great cultural development took place, successfully creating other stone implements and bone tools to do drawing mural paintings. The mankind from before that period is called paleoanthropic man (Neanderthal) and from that point and onwards, mankind has been classified as a “new breed” of humans, that's what the common theory dictates.

It was the first time in a month that Kisaragi Karen takes classes, as she was working at Calbrera Island, the venue for the World Martial Arts Tournament.

During that time, the lessons were recorded on video and sent every day to her, and the things she didn't know were taught by her friend Umino Aoi, who returned first to Little Garden from Calbrera Island. Her classmate who's a knowledgeable girl and wear glasses that suits her.

(I'm late, I have to get back soon...)

Otherwise, supplementary lessons will occur, and she may lose the spring break and will be unable to return to Yamato with his brother and the others.

Those are the plans of Karen.

– There are various theories as to why humanity suddenly made a <<Great Leap Forward>>, but it's clearly unknown. There's a theory that God appeared and gave wisdom to mankind, another theory that an unusual phenomenon occurred in the brain of the paleoanthropic man caused by a virus attached to the meteorite that fell from outer space, causing the <<Great Leap Forward>>. By that much, it's a mysterious phenomenon.

Yes, it's already spring.

The end of the term is approaching.

...although Karen is still in second year.

Even though she will be taking classes for a month and a little, her life in middle school continues.

However, there's going to be a class change at the time of promotion.

In her grade there are 2 classrooms.

Will Rebecca, Aoi and Nakri be in the same class with her next year?

Karen looked at Nakri.

(As expected, Nakri-chan is sleeping...)

As expected, she put a wry smile.

Because Nakri has never took care of listening to classes.

Without a doubt, supplementary lessons will take place for her.

(But, assuming her role as a Slayer, will she be exempt?) She doesn't think

about it and feeling envious.

Others are others. She is she.

— And the same evolution of 40.000 years ago is happening to mankind now. The *First Attack* of 14 years ago—since then, the evolution of mankind has continued to accelerate. Apart from the development of the Hundred, the decisive battle weapons for anti-Savage usage, a lot of tools using the steel shell of the Savage and *Variable Stones* were created, along with many things that have been impossible to made now, they are currently possible. This Little Garden is one of them, and at last, mankind gets into space—attempting to reach the moon.

「Moon」

She reacted to that single word.

The female teacher smiled at Karen and told something unthinkable.

— Before the year ends, Lunaltia Base will commence its operations and for the commemoration ceremony, there's a roughly unofficial offer for Kisaragi Karen from our class to do a concert with Kirishima Sakura, the world-class diva.

The gazes of the classmates gather at Karen and naturally, claps took place.

— Eh, ah, well.... Wha-, what do I do...

It was too abruptly, she didn't know what to do.

Looking at her, both Rebecca and Aoi applauded.

Nakri is glaring with disgusted eyes at Karen.

— Karen-san, please do your best, okay?

Karen, who was told so by her teacher, scratched her cheek and answered with a troubled smile.

— Ye-...yes. I will do my best....

She's more embarrassed than when she's covered in ovation on the stage.

That's the honest impression of Karen for this situation.

※ ※ ※

And then, immediately after the lessons ended, after school arrived.

Nakri 「returned to Krovahn」, heading to the next class where her older brother belongs to; Touka was on her way back home together with Rebecca, Aoi and Karen, with whom she's living in the same guesthouse.

– Now that you mention it, do you know something about the rumor of a ghost?

They are walking in the middle of the corridor that leads towards the entrance with the shoe rack.

All of a sudden, Rebecca broke the ice with that.

– ...a ghost?

Aoi cocked her head in puzzlement.

– What's the thing about it?

Following her, Karen did the same.

While spreading her mouth in a wide horizontal mischief-like way, Rebecca continued talking.

– Someone came to school at night to pick up something that was left behind when that person saw it. An incredible white skin, blond hair, and the body of the ghost irradiated light!

While opening her eyes and mouth wide and suspending her arms, Rebecca approached Aoi.

A sordid whizzing sound, an impact that resounded as if it was a sound effect from a TV show of Yamato.

(White skin, blond hair, a body that emits light...?) Those words were on Karen's mind.

At the time of the Gardens Festa, the one that helped her——

And then, the girl who stayed inside her for a brief time and saved her when she was in a pinch.

The result suggested that the figure on her mind is Liza.

– Is, is that true!?

While trembling, Aoi asked.

– It's true! Not only one person, but everyone has seen it. There are some guys who even saw it in midday too. Which reminds me, I heard that it was wearing blue roses as hair ornaments.

Hearing that, Karen thinks *there's no doubt*.

It's Liza.

– Midday!? Then are you saying that it can come out now?

– Ah, there's something behind you now...

– Hiii!

Aoi tries to look back and hops.

Looking at her, Rebecca was roaring with laughter.

– Hahaha, I'm joking, I'm joking.

– Uu, please don't give me a scare like that...

Touka called out Aoi who hung her head saying that.

– It's okay, Aoi. Whatever it is, I'll knock it down.

Then, with her hand, she grasped tightly the Hundred that hung in her neck.

Looking at her, Rebecca said.

– Certainly, I feel relieved having Touka-san with us. Even if it's a ghost, she will split it in half!

– Uh huh, I'll protect you all.

Touka talks full of herself.

And, almost at the same time.

–

A chill, and.

Feeling something on the spine, Karen immediately turned her head.

There——

(Eh...?)

The place they walked.

Beyond that, a single girl stood there.

Rebecca said that it was a girl whose skin is white, has blond hair and her body emits light.

There's a diadem of roses on her head, thorny ivies are coiling around her body.

(She's...)

The girl who came to her mind moments ago.

——She's Liza.

– Did something happen?

Turning her back, Aoi asks to the dumbfounded standing Karen.

– Ah, well...

How can she explain it?



The troubled Karen looked back.

(It will definitely do no good to tell them about Liza-san) That's why she chose to lie them.

– I'm sorry. Karen was thinking about something for a bit.

– Thinking about something?

Aoi tilts her head.

– Yes, exactly.

Karen replied.

Rebecca call them out.

– Hey, you two, what are you talking? Let's go.

– Ah, yes.

Karen answers, and started to walk, following Rebecca and Touka who are going ahead.

Aoi does the same.

But, Karen looks back again worried about that little girl.

However— —

(...huh?)

The girl wasn't there anymore.

– Hey, Karen! Are you stupefied again?

– Ah... I'm sorry!

Karen rapidly rushed to the three girls.

– It's getting warmer, so it's dangerous if you get absent-minded*.

***TN: I can't get the meaning of this line :c** – I'll be careful....

Karen turned down and apologized.

The three girls changed their shoes at the shoe rack and went outside the school building.

– It's really getting warmer, don't you think?

Aoi mutters while looking up at the blue sky.

Likewise, Rebecca muttered.

– A little more and it's spring.

— —Spring.

The season where a lot of people are starting to move towards their respective goals, was approaching.

Chapter 1: Selection of the next President

The Feelings of Erika The Dream of the Elder Sister

She decided to go to the moon.

However, she hasn't decided who will accompany her.

Who should be the ones that will accompany her?

Claire had been thinking about it non-stop since returning to Little Garden from Calbrera Island where the World Martial Arts Tournament was held.

The result of the selection of <<LiZA>> is to bring almost all the members of *Selections* with her. Only Liddy Steinberg and Emilia Hermit are out of it.

The reason about why Liddy is staying is simple.

It's because Liddy Steinberg is worthy to succeed Claire Harvey who is the current President of the Student Council.

But, she doesn't know the reason why <<LiZA>> has excluded Emilia Hermit.

Claire asks <<LiZA>>.

『Why don't you select Emilia Hermit』

The answer to that is the following.

『Listen to your heart』

***TN: Both sentences in brackets were written in English by the author.**

Claire sighed greatly.

She completely realized her feelings.

– Your excessive meddling is unnecessary masenwayo.

Claire inflated her cheeks.

Even though it's the judgment of <<LiZA>>, the final decision is entrusted to

herself.

(... first of all, let's talk with the closest one...)

Claire started with her right-hand person.

She decided to call Liddy Steinberg.

– I thought about it and I would like to request Liddy to be my successor masuwa.

Claire began to talk towards Liddy who came to the Student Council Room.

Looking a bit surprised, Liddy asked a question in return.

– Does that mean that I will stay in Little Garden and I will become the President?

– Exactly desuwa. I will head to the moon together with the graduation masu.

– Can I ask one thing?

– Sure desuwayo.

– Is that the choice of Claire-sama herself? Or her Ani-sama's and Liza's choice, or Dr. Charlotte's—

– <<LiZA>> also suggested that you should remain in Little Garden and that you should be the President. But, from the start, that was also my idea—originally, I got a proposition from my older brother to go to the moon, but in the end, I decided it myself desu.

– Is that so...

– Will you accept masuka?

– ... of course.

Liddy answered, straightening herself.

If Claire steps down from the seat of the President, then she will succeed her after that.

Besides that, she is the only one suitable for that role.

... but, this kind of way was unexpected.

It was because Claire thought that she would remain in Little Garden as captain of the ship after graduation.

– I thought you would say so mashitawa.

Gently, yet satisfied, Claire smiled.

– Should I take over the title of the captain of the ship?

Claire is the President of the Student Council and the captain of Little Garden.

If she leaves Little Garden, someone must replace her.

– That is undecided so far desuwa. If Erika and Chris go to the moon, there is the possibility that you will be doing both roles masu.

– Have you not talked to Erika or Chris yet?

– No, you are the first. The next one to call is Erika desu.

– I think that it is sure to say that Erika will follow Claire-sama.

– ... indeed desuwane. I have the same feeling masuwa.

Slipping out a smile, Claire continued speaking.

– That's all what I had to say. From now on, in order to become accustomed to the position of the President, I will gradually delegate my work to you, yes? And thank you for accepting the role masuwane.

※ ※ ※

15 minutes after Liddy left.

Erika came to the Student Council Room.

– I will go to the moon with Claire-sama. I will stay to the side of Claire-sama. Because that is the reason, the meaning of my life.

Erika heard that Claire is going to the moon, and her reply was just as Liddy said.

Thereupon, Claire smiled gently at Erika and,

– It is fine already.

– ... what is fine?

What does that mean, I wonder?

Erika asked with a blank look.

– Two years have passed since you entered Little Garden, you have done enough mashita. Forget about obligations and the like by now, there won't be a problem even if you live doing what you like desu.

– It has nothing to do with obligations! I would like to go together with Claire-sama. It is precisely because I wanted so that I have been working like this. Therefore—

– ... I get it masuwa.

Slipping out a smile, Claire said.

– Then, let's go to the moon together.

– Claire-sama...!

The facial expression of Erika got suddenly brighter.

(Yes, this person knows my feelings)

Erika thinks she is very wonderful.

That hasn't change from that day.

(From that day, I have always been with Claire-sama...)

※ ※ ※

That was three years ago.

Erika lived in an agrarian community in central Liberia, and was heading for shopping with her father and mother to the huge shopping mall that was 30 minutes or so by car.

In the driver's seat of the big black light van was her father, he's a farmer.

Her mother, her helper, is in the passenger seat.

Erika and the food for one week were on the back seat.

It was the regular work of every Sunday.

Erika is reading a book on the Tablet PC as usual in the backseat.

She didn't want to go shopping if possible.

She wanted to read a book at home.

And yet, she was taken out as if they were a happy family circle.

Erika was discontent with it.

What is being played from the radio that resounds from the driver's seat is old-fashioned country music that matches the reddish ground that can be seen outside the window.

Her father is whistling in accordance to the melody of his favorite song.

For Erika it was a nuisance to her reading.

The song is suddenly interrupted, and changed to a sound of a piercing siren.

— Huh?

What on earth is that? Erika gave a gaze from the Tablet PC.

— No way— —the Savage!?

And in accordance with the prediction of the father.

News flash were coming from the radio.

An announcer in panic informs that there was news of the arrival of the Savage.

The predicted falling place is the place where they are driving now.

BOOM! Making a sound, the car shook.

(Don't tell me that— —)

The tremor was because the Savage landed just now?

Erika put the Tablet PC in the seat and tries to look outside.

Then the car shook again.

— Damn it!

The father exclaims.

— Mom! Erika! Get down!

Without knowing the reason, Erika followed those words and stooped.

The world dyed white.

The Savage fired the bombardment!

The sound of an explosion was heard and, a floating sensation.

(... no way, the car is floating...?)

It felt as if they were riding in an *attraction* of an amusement park.

THUD! Then the tremors attack again, and the pain pierced through their bodies.

Without stopping its movement, the car continued rolling, and finally stopped.

(I'm alive...)

That's what she thought first.

However, when trying to move her body a bit, the pain flowed.

She's caught between the crushed ceiling of the car and the seat, it seems unlikely that she'll be able to move from that place.

What is reflected in her blurred vision are rolling onions and apples—

And a part of her glasses was broken, it got cracked.

— Dad! Mom!

Erika desperately calls the two people who were riding the car with her.

— Argh... Erika... are you alright?

What came back was the voice in pain of her mother.

— Mom!

Still, she was relieved.

In this state, her family is alive.

She felt saved just by that.

— Sorry, Erika. Mom can't move...

– It's the same for dad... Erika, run away.

Her father was alive.

But— —

– I can't move... so, I can't run away...

– No way! If it's only Erika, I want you to live...

Immediately after her mother gave a sorrowful voice.

From the space between iron plate and iron plate, she saw a giant Savage.

– Ah...

Fear runs through her body.

Of course, it's the first time she sees a Savage.

Since she doesn't have her glasses, she can't see its appearance properly.

But she knew immediately what it was going to do.

It was because she saw somehow or other that its head was wide open.

Erika knows that that is a signal of bombardment.

The car protected them earlier and they were able to survive.

But, if they receive the bombardment in this state— —.

(I see, we are going to die after all...)

Although she desperately hid her body and closed her eyes, she frankly thought so.

But the Savage didn't come to attack no matter how much time passes.

... what on earth is happening?

In the midst of chaos, the ground shook in short and repeated movements.

– Huh?

Following that, a *BANG* is heard and a sunlight shone.

When she could see, she saw the figure of a girl holding the hood of the car in one of her hands.

A girl with blonde hair dressed in red armor—

(This person...)

The decisive battle weapons, the <<Hundred Armaments>> *Hundred* developed by Warslan to combat the enemy of mankind, the Savage.

The ones being able to handle a Hundred are called Slayers.

– These people, um...

Behind the girl with blonde hair, girls dressed in similar armor and that are a little older than the girl appeared.

– Claire-sama, we have dealt with the Savage.

– Thank you for your hard work. We rescued a person here desuwa.

It appears that the previous tremor was when the Savage fell down.

She was saved.

It's alright now.

Thinking so, tears are overflowing.

– There is nothing to cry for masenwayo.

The girl with blonde hair gently called her out.

Claire picked up the glasses that had fallen to the side and handed them to Erika.

– Are you alright desuka?

– Ye-, yyes...!

Even when she replied, Erika was surprised.

– But, mom and dad are still inside...

– Let us help them.

When the blond girl said so, two other girls began to move and rescued her father and mother while destroying the metal board.

– Erika!

Erika was being embraced closely by her mother.

Subsequently, her father also embraced her closely.

Looking at the situation, Claire smiled and said to Erika.

– What a relief desuwane.

– Ah, umm, err...

Erika makes an effort to say her thanks to Claire.

But——.

– ... looks like another one arrived desuwane.

Claire looks back, saying so as if spitting out.

– I will entertain it masu. You girls, bring these people to the shade of the rock desuwa.

– Ah...

Carried by two Slayers who were ordered by Clare, Erika and her parents were taken to the shade of a rock.

It's the place where injured people like them are gathered due to the raid of the Savage.

(I see, the person just now...)

Erika, dropped by the two Slayers, and from the shade of the rock, looked at the blonde girl fighting the Savage.

The blonde girl stopped the bombardment of the Savage.

The girl, who was called Claire, heads straight to the Savage.

Standing behind Erika, her father was looking the same scene and muttered.

– Don't tell me, that girl is——

– Dad, do you know her?

– Yes, I have heard of her in rumors. The daughter of Warslan Company who developed the Hundred, and known as the strongest Slayer at the present time, Claire Harvey, the <<Rose Protector>> *Rose Guardian*.... Probably, I'm sure of it.

– Claire Harvey...

She turned her eyes to the girl of that name once again.

It seemed that her age wasn't different from herself.

And yet, how strong she is.

And, how brave she is.

She doesn't falter against the opponents who are many times bigger than her.

She disrupted the Savage using a floating battery, and destroyed something like a shining stone in the head.

Then, the Savage stops moving.

The parents of Erika, and of course the rest of the evacuated cheered.

— Amazing...

Erika muttered very emotional.

From that day on, Claire was Erika's lifesaver, a heroine, a yearning existence.

And then from that day on, Erika began to investigate about the Hundred and the Slayers.

The information was limited only because Warslan didn't make public a lot of things about them, but as her father said, Claire is a very famous person in the world—.



She saves the world from the Savage, and was revered as a heroic existence.

– Amazing, she’s really, amazing...!

Erika admired Claire the more she investigated, reaching the point of adoration.

(One more time... I want to see you again, Claire-sama...)

At any rate, she has a lot of regret.

At that time, she couldn’t convey her words of gratitude properly.

So, she would like to meet Claire once again and tell her words of gratitude to her.

When she was thinking about it, a turning point came to Erika.

She was in the midst of searching about Claire on the *cybernet* as usual, using her PC.

– This is...

What she happened to see is that Warslan is about to establish a school with the purpose to train Slayers.

And then, in the news was stated that the school was planned to be built on a huge floating city ship.

It’s also written that the aptitude test will be done extensively in order to gather students of the Slayer apprenticeship.

Besides, the representative of that school is——

– Claire...sama...?

It was written that the captain of the floating academy city ship and the representative of the school was the world-famous Slayer Claire “*Rose Guardian*” Harvey. In other words, if she enrolls in Little Garden, she can meet Claire.

Maybe she can even fight and trust their backs together.

– It’s being accepted or nothing...

Exactly, Erika will be a senior high school student from next year.

She’s perfectly suited for the recruiting age.

However, she was also scared.

If she doesn't have the talent to be a Slayer and can't enter Little Garden, her dreams may end up shattering.

However, if she stops, she won't move forward.

(It's a great opportunity, I'll be accepted, I'll be accepted for sure)

Erika resolved herself for the entrance examination of Little Garden.

She decided to take the Slayer's aptitude test.

It's said that the Hundred also respond to the feelings of the people.

(That's why, I'm sure that the Hundred will respond to my feelings!)

Believing that, Erika persuaded her parents.

Naturally, her father told her that 「Erika, there's no way you can be a Slayer」

She thinks that is the case.

It's because she doesn't have physical strength nor reflexes.

Still, Erika supplicated 「I want to receive liberty of action only if I'm accepted」 「If I pass the examination, I would like to go to Little Garden」

Her parents knew Erika's feelings for Claire.

That's why——.

— I absolutely think that you won't pass the examination.

Although saying that, her parents gave Erika their consent to take the examination.

And, the very day of the examination——.

While her heart was beating stronger, Erika headed to the examination hall.

Then, she will touch the *Variable Stone*, the source of the Hundred.

Supposing there was no reaction, then that's the end.

If there's a reaction, but her numerical value is low, then it may be impossible to enroll in Little Garden.

(... it's fine.... I must become a Slayer.... The Hundred is supposed to respond

to my feelings towards Claire-sama...)

Erika kept telling that to herself to distract her anxiety.

That doesn't change until just before touching the Hundred at the examination hall.

— Next is Erika Candle.

Calling the name in the test tube, she stretched out the hand to the Hundred placed in front of her.

(— —Kamisama— —)

Praying, the moment she touched it— —.

— Ah...

When she saw that the stone shone in a strong purple, flowers bloomed on the expression of Erika who was stiff.

It was a stronger light than the ones of the other students.

(I did it, the Hundred responded to my feelings towards Claire-sama— —)

She passed the exam.

After that, and as they heard it, Erika got first place in the reaction numerical value at that time.

There were secondary examinations that took place at a later date, these included physical examination and physical strength measurements.

And, the intelligence measurement was the main content.

To start with, she didn't have problems with the intelligence measurement.

She was that much confident.

The problem is the physical examination and the physical strength measurement.

She lacks physical strength, but she is way more than confident with her intelligence.

Her height is short, and her body is stiff.

Her eyesight is bad.

And since her physical ability is inferior, she's poor at running.

Honestly, for a Slayer, that would be nothing but minus points.

And in the actual conditions, her physical strength measurement was horrible.

She failed both in short distance race and long distance race, she couldn't do neither push-ups nor sit-ups properly, it's as if she doesn't have lung capacity.

Even her grip strength is considerably lower than girls of her same age.

And even though she trained for the test, there are limits.

After all, she went through a hasty preparation

(If the martial arts department is a no-no, then the intelligence department...)

Then she can't fight together with Claire, but she can live in the same Little Garden.

It was an opportunity to meet her—she may have the chance to chitchat with her, but then, something happened when she had given up enrolling in the martial arts department.

Nevertheless—

— ... it's a lie...

Without believing it, she received a passing notice of the secondary examination.

(This may be a dream...)

She pulled her cheek, but she didn't wake up.

This is reality.

As for the passing notice, the third and final test is in a week later.

It was also stated the contents of the interview.

And then, a week later, the day of the interview.

Erika headed to the branch of the Warslan Company that is in the hall.

There is someone who does the interview, and their name isn't written in the

information.

But, maybe— —

(Maybe I can meet Claire-sama!)

Thinking that, she got excited.

But— —.

(... If Claire-sama appears, I may not be able to take the interview in a normal state...)

What should I do?

She was worried.

Even though she arrived at the interview assembly hall, naturally her fast beatings won't stop.

She came together with 5 people to take the interview.

How many people will be chosen from this?

Of course, Erika doesn't know.

— Erika Candle— —

— Ye-, yes!

Erika gave a loud voice when her name was suddenly called.

— You are the first. Follow me.

It was a woman who called her name, and the one who is going to guide Erika.

It's a woman of her same age, she's tall, has stiffy eyebrows, dark skin and is wearing an atmosphere like a Slayer does.

— I am Liddy Steinberg. In case you enter Little Garden, I will be teaching you martial arts.

— Is-, is that so...?

After all, she was a Slayer.

Liddy stopped her feet as Erika thought that her intuition wasn't wrong.

There's a thick door in front of them.

– The interview of Claire-sama will be held here.

– ...huh?

Now, “Claire-sama” — —.

Without time for getting agitated, the door was opened by Liddy.

– Ex-, excuse me!

Erika lowered her head with enough momentum to make her glasses slid and fell.

With expectation and anxiety, she raised the lowered head.

And, from the back of the room.

Beyond the placed table, the heroine of Erika, her yearning person— — Claire Harvey, the *Rose Guardian*, was sitting.

– Eh, umm, well...

She was telling herself to not tremble.

But it’s impossible.

Even though she was prepared, she can’t hide her trembling.

– Is there something wrong? Get inside and sit there.

– Ah, yes!

– This time her nervousness was too much that she replied with a loud voice.

She cannot help but feel embarrassed.

Page 55

She moved to the front of the chair placed in front of Claire and sat down.

And in that moment.

– It’s been a long time desuwane.

– ...eh?

With those words, she was taken aback.

– Erika-san got involved in the attack of the Savage in Atlalta three years ago,

correct?

– Ho-how do you know that?

– It was written in the field of the reasons for application of your resume mashitawa.

– Ah...

I see, now that she mentions it.

Erika remembered that the filled field of reasons for her application has no gaps, because she made a list with everything she feels: that she was saved by Claire, that at that time she admired the Slayers and that she wanted to be like Claire and so on. Because of that, her face got dyed red in an instant.

– Oh, right! At that time——at that time you saved us, thank you very much!

Erika deeply bowed her head.

She finally could give her thanks.

Claire, who saw that figure, smiled and said.

– Raise your head. From now on, you won't be on the side who is saved but on the side who saves.

In response to those words, Erika greatly opened her eyes.

– That means——

– That you will become a Slayer just like me. That is written in your resume.

– Ye-, yes. I wanted to thank Claire-sama who saved me. I wanted to become a Slayer that can fight together with you. That is my number one way to give my thanks. That's why I took the test and I——

– The numerical value of the physical strength measurement was insufficient, but the Hundred responded to you and your feelings, isn't it? Having the intention of being able to live as a Slayer. That is why I am giving you the passing desuwa. Erika Candle, I have my hopes on you masuwayo.

– Claire-sama, that means, that...

Claire stood up and headed towards the confused Erika.

And, she presented her hand——.

– Of course, you passed desuwa. Will you help us to complete Little Garden, the called cornerstone, and protect this world with me from now on masuka?

– ... yes.

What should she do?

She can't stop the tears.

She was so happy that the tears didn't stop.

Erika squeezes out her voice desperately from the bottom of her throat.

– Thank you, very much....

Erika wasn't negligent with her efforts, even after enrolling, even after it was decided to enter Little Garden like this.

Not only she diligently studied the skills as a Slayer, but also desperately continued studying to compensate for the parts she fell behind by learning the latest technology, knowledge of weapons, memorizing how to use them and so on.

As a result, within half a year after entering thr school, she's a member of the anti-Savage force under direct control of Claire——*Selections*.

After that, she continued raising military gains against the Savage, and after several months since she joined Selections, it has been decided that she would have the position of Vice President together with Liddy Steinberg who was guiding the students as Vice President and as Claire's right-hand since the beginning of the establishment of the school.

※ ※ ※

– Is Liddy also heading towards the moon?

Erika asked Claire.

– No, Liddy will succeed me and will become the President masuwa. I already confirmed that it was her own intention too desu.

– ... is that so?

She didn't give an objection about Liddy being the President.

But— —.

– Then, who are going to be the Vice Presidents?

It's practically impossible to manage the Student Council alone.

The workload is to that extent, that even the prideful Liddy is weak in some areas.

Erika, who got surprised, said.

– Perhaps Emilia Hermit and Kisaragi Hayato are going to do it!?

– If they do it, do you have any problems with them?

– If you allow me, well... those two people, regardless of their skills as Slayers, to say whether they are suitable for the Student Council, I guess they are not so...

– I think the same masuwa.

Erika was staring dumbfounded at the delightful facial expression of Claire.

– However, it's said that the position creates the person masu. If they join the Student Council, they may become suitable people. Don't you think so, Erika?

– That's...

She herself wasn't that kind of person.

She was weak.

But, she became a Slayer.

She became a member of *Selections*.

She became one of the Vice Presidents.

She was able to become stronger, both in mentality and as a Slayer.

Certainly, it may be as Claire says.

– ... anyway, there is a high possibility that the Vice Presidents will be chosen from the members of *Selections* who will be in second next year. Nonetheless, the selection is from deciding who will go to the moon desuwa.

- Certainly, it is as Claire-sama said.
- Having said that, the conversation is over desu. Let's continue fighting together, and protect this world together with me from now on.
- Yes. Of course, Claire-sama.

※ ※ ※

The two Vice Presidents.

She has confirmed the intentions of Liddy and Erika.

Liddy will remain on the earth, and Erika will go to the moon with her.

(The one remaining is Chris desuwane...)

Chris Steinbelt is also an important talented person for Little Garden.

At any rate, he is the *main analyst* of this ship.

Of course, there will be a lot of places to play an active role if he goes to Lunaltia Base, but taking into consideration the Earth, it may be better for him to remain in Little Garden.

That was Claire's idea.

(But——)

She only got a single call from Judal Harvey, her older brother, after returning to Little Garden.

The talk at that time was about Chris.

『Now that I remember, I have forgotten to tell you something before...』

– ... what is it desuno...?

『Can you tell Chris Steinbelt to come to Lunaltia Base with you as well?』

After a brief silence, Claire returned the words.

– What do you mean desuno?

『What I'm saying is that, as for me, I want to take him to the moon』

– There is no compulsion, right?

『Not at all——. But, the moon is where she wanted to go. Because he is a sort

of successor, he is her younger brother, so I want to take him to the moon』*

***TN: the kana for successor is かわり. It has a lot of uses, and “substitute and replacement” are the direct ones but they feel a little off in this. Unless Judal really meant one of those.**

– A successor, huh...

She’s the older sister of Chris— —.

That means Est Steinbelt, who was also the *maid* of Claire and Judal.

– ... understood. I will immediately tell Chris your words and confirm his intention masuwa.

『I’m counting on you』

Claire looked at the ceiling while leaning on the back of the chair.

(Certainly, Est was looking frequently at the moon mashitawane..)

She remembers when she met Est.

And, the days she spent with Est.

– Claire, Judal. From today on, this person will be my substitute, okay?

It was a blunt way of saying it.

As a result, the child Claire couldn’t immediately understand what she was told.

– I have to take a look to the baby in my belly for a while. In the meantime, it has been arranged that she, along with *Mei Mei*, will take care of you.

– ... baby?

Claire knitted her eyebrows in suspicion.

– That’s right, Claire. I made you a little sister to you, you know? So, Est will take care of Judal and you.

She knew that Est was a student of her mother after both of them died.

That was only a few years ago.

– I think I will quit school.

Est, who visited the research institute of Linis, told her own intention going straight to the point.

– ... why?

Linis, who was facing the computer, looked back and asked Est.

Linis Harvey was 25 years old.

The story is when Est Steinbelt was 20 years old.

– My mother died due to the raid of the Savage that happened the other day. I don't have relatives, since my family was one without a father. It is impossible to keep studying while raising a very young brother. Besides...

– Besides?

– I, I have no talent.

– You don't have talent? I don't think so, but.

Anyway, Est enrolled at Halvald University, which is one of the most excellent universities in the United States of Liberia, and from which Linis Harvey, who is operating this research institute and Bill Harvey, the President of Warslan Company, graduated.

Moreover, although she's a student, she's also in the research institute of Warslan— —and in addition to that, she was showed in the leading research institute which is conducting major research and she's learning as a special research student while supporting research in that place. Even when going back to the past when she was a student, there were only a handful of people in that place.

– ... that's not true.

– ?

– Because no matter how hard I try, I think I can't become a top researcher like the ones in this research institute, to not mention Linis-san.

Listening to that answer, Linis answered calmly.

– ... that might be true.

The top researchers belonged to this research institute.

Here where only those who skipped grades and graduated from university in the first half of their adolescence.

The so-called geniuses——they were just people called prodigies.

– Yes. If it was the moon, I thought that I could do a lot of hobby astronomical observations. I am giving up since that dream will not come true now.

Est laughs in self-deprecation.

– If so, I have an idea.

– ... an idea?

– Before that thing, I have something to teach you. Sit there and boot up the PC.

– Ah, yes...

Doing as she was told, Est boots up the PC.

– I'll send the data now. It's encrypted by the way. The encryption is 83A98B320. Open it and read it.

– This is...

Inputting the encryption exactly as she was told, she opened the file.

And at the same time, Est shuddered.

– Now, I'm studying the weapons that used *Variable Stone*——together with the Hundred. And now, the data is about the girl who is in my belly. If it's you, then you know what it means, right?

– Sensei, don't tell me——

– In order to beat the Savage, you only have to create something with the same power as the Savage. It's one of the experiments I considered about above all. The suitability of the Hundred should be earth-shattering.

– But, the human rights organization won't allow it, not even the scientific society...

– ...while it may be true that, then it's fine if mankind is destroyed by the Savage? This is necessary for mankind to overcome God. Besides, I don't have

time anymore.

– Don't have time...?

– Two years have passed since life was given by God to me. I was told that.

– That's—

– Yes, one of the diseases that has occurred since the 《First Attack》. No treatment has been found. First, the body won't move, then the brain won't work and eventually I'll die. I'm suffering that kind of disease.

– ... why are you telling me this, what do you want me to do?

– Wouldn't you like to work for the Harvey family?

– ... huh?

It was a sudden proposition. It was unexpected.

– I have two other children. But the I'd like to study the Hundred during the time that I have, nurturing the child in my womb and left things after I died. So, this is my way— I created a *robot maid* as a mother. I want you to raise my children together with Mei Mei. In case that you say yes, I'll guarantee you and your brother all necessities of life.

Saying that, Linis continued.

– This proposition recognizes your intelligence and human nature. I can't ask other people. That's why I revealed everything to you.

–

She was glad that she was recognized by her mentor. The conditions presented and the amount of money are perfect.

– Then, do you accept?

Of course, there was no reason to decline.

– Certainly, and thank you for your consideration.

Speaking of results, Est was a very excellent maid and became a private tutor.

She does housework in the morning, teaches studying in the afternoon and studies things related to astronomy while watching the starry sky in the middle

of the night.

Est was satisfied in such a daily life.

And, the son and two daughters of Linis Harvey, her deceased mentor, gave her such a satisfied daily life.

And Est is happy to watch over her younger brother's growth.

It was unimaginable to think about other kind of happiness.

Then **that incident** occurred in the middle of that.

Est and Judal were involved in a terrorist attack aimed at the president of Warslan Company, Bill Harvey, where she lost her life.

The consequence was that, the younger brother of Est—Chris Steinbelt, has lost the only blood relative he had.

As a matter of course, Chris is still 7 years old.

He's not at an age where he can be independent, and although it was indirect, it seems that Est have died as a replacement for Bill Harvey.

Even though there was hardly any exchange between them, there's also the relation that both lived in the same residence.

Moreover, Judal and Claire, who had a great debt of gratitude towards Est, continued to make Chris live in the residence of the Harvey family, and managed to guarantee him an everyday life without inconveniences.

This was very appreciated for Chris, but at the same time he felt regretful.

Therefore, Chris thought of a way to thank them and suggested that he wanted to become the assistant of Judal.

Just like her older sister Est, he thought about working as a follower.

However, Judal refused since that wasn't necessary.

But Chris didn't give up, he took the initiative by looking after Judal and Claire's everyday necessities and continued to encourage their studies.

As a result, Claire acknowledged Chris and persuaded Judal.

It was decided that he would occupy the current position as the assistant of

Claire.

Several years after that— —.

While continuously following the side of Claire, he also continued his studies and got the position of *main analyst*.

Chris became an indispensable being to Little Garden.

(It is a big *minus* for Little Garden if Chris leaves this place. But it is also a big *minus* for mankind if Chris is not at the moon base masuwane.... It is a difficult decision desuwa...)

It's no use how much she thinks about it, she won't be able to come to a conclusion.

In the end, it depends on Chris' decision.

— Thank you for your hard work, Claire-sama. What are your orders?

The door was opened and Chris came to the Student Council room.

— I have something important to talk with you today desu.

Without gossiping, Claire suddenly began to talk.

— ... something important to talk?

— As you already know, it has been decided that I will head to the moon— —to Lunaltia Base next year masu

— That is what I heard of. The intention of the older brother of Claire-sama, Judal-sama — —

— Exactly desu. Judal approached me and told me to take you with me to the moon desu.

Chris, who heard those words, asked again looking a little surprised.

— Me, to the moon...?

— You are a talented person that is needed in Little Garden— —for this reason, I feel that I want you to remain in Little Garden arimasu. However, even at Lunaltia Base you should be able to fully demonstrate your ability and that will also benefit the whole human race. Besides— —

– ... besides?

– Judal said this. He wants to grant the dream of Est Steinbelt, your older sister— —to you, instead of her.

Est Steinbelt.

The moment he heard that name, the expression of Chris who hung his head became stiff.

– It's that kind of thing, huh...

– You don't need to arrive at a conclusion right now masen. That's right desuwane. By the time the spring break is over— —

– No, I do not need time.

Interrupting the words of Claire, Chris said.

– Regarding Claire-sama, I will go to the moon.

He said those words gazing firmly at the eyes of Claire.

– ... is that so?

– Yes. My older sister was watching the moon from a young age. She showed it to me many, many times too. That is why I also have been longing the moon, besides— —

Chris showed signs of embarrassment, and continued his words.

– After the death of my older sister, I devoted myself to the Harvey family who took care of me. That's why, if I am separated from Claire-sama with whom I spent many years together and who is the reason I live for, I will be alone!

– ... you, what are...!

The face of Claire was dyed red, her eyes and mouth were widely opened.

It's because she never thought that such a thing would be said.

– Those are my honest feelings.

– ... Un-, understood.

Claire coughed in order to calm herself and said.

– Then, let's head to Lunaltia Base together.

She confirmed the intentions of Liddy, Erika, Chris and confirmed each of their paths.

(First stage completed... but I have the feeling that there is still a long way to go desuwane)

She must select those who will be taken to Lunaltia Base from all the members of the martial arts department, interview them and get their decision.

It would be better to do it as soon as possible.

Since to go to the moon, special training is also necessary.

(The first ones I should ask are the teammates with whom I fought together in team battles at the World Martial Arts Tournament desuwane...)

Nesat Olfred, Krovahn Olfred and Nakri Olfred.

Fritz Grantz and Latia Saint-Émillion.

And finally, Kisaragi Hayato and Emilia Hermit.

– ... but it is already late at night, so let's leave it for today...

She will have a talk with each of the 7 of them at a later date.

Deciding that, Claire got up from the chair and decided to return home.

A beautiful moon floats in the sky.

Mankind was about to advance into the place that hasn't reached even when stretching their hands.

Chapter 2: Revival of Touka *The Resolution of the three* The person I love

– Haaah! Yaah!

In the early morning of Little Garden, high-spirited yells were echoing.

Subsequently, the intense sounds of sword clashing against sword reverberate continuously.

It's near the dormitory where Hayato lives.

– Shinshishō, how about this!

It's Kenzaki Touka that attacks Hayato with a black sword in her hand.

She's a girl who yearns Hayato as a shishō*.

***TN: Remember: Shinshishō is new master, and shishō is master.**

– ... kh...

The black sword that Touka is swinging is the one that Little Garden's *Main Technologist*, Charlotte Dimandius, made based on the sword that Touka's father, Kenzaki Hokuto, made with *Variable Stone*——《Hokuto • Revised》.

Hayato continued fending off the attacks with a wooden sword.

– How is it? You said that I was fine already, yes?

– Certainly, your condition seems to be coming back almost to its normality, if I say so.

It's probably because of her high innate healing ability.

The injuries she suffered in individual matches of the World Martial Arts Tournament, the sharp pains that were pounding her, seem to be really recovering.

Every time he received a hit, his hands became numb.

– Please watch carefully, because I can do this only once, okay!? Haa!

Touka kicked off the ground and jumped up, then slashed at Hayato while twisting her body.

– Kenzaki Style New Technique <<Whirlwind Slash>> *Senpuuzan!*

It's a powerful blow.

Even when stopping the blow using *energy*, the blow was of such degree that his body was sent flying to the back.

However, Hayato didn't fall.

He managed to stay on both feet.

– You sure are strong, Shinshishō.

– Same to you.

While showing a smile to each other and breathing with their shoulders*, they exchanged words.

***TN: their shoulders going up and down due to their breathing.**

– But, this isn't over yet.

Saying that, Touka kicked the ground again and when she was about to close the distance with the separated Hayato.

– ... ack...!

Touka falls to the ground, crumbling down from the foot she stepped forward.

– Hey, are you okay!?

Hayato rapidly throws the wooden sword and rushes to where Touka is.

– I-, I'm okay!

The face of Touka was bright red, and she tried to stand up using the sword.

There, Hayato called her out.

– That doesn't mean that you are in your best form yet, so don't overdo it,

okay? Even Mihal-san, and Charlotte-san said that you shouldn't be excessive, right?

– ... yes. But...

– Then, that would be for today, this much is enough.

Hayato interrupted the words of Touka and said while giving her a hand.

Then Touka, who was trying to stand up grabbing his hands, immediately starts to object.

– But, Shinshishō. I'm still— —.

– I'm telling you, it's enough.

Asserting clearly, Hayato put his hand on the head of Touka.

Then he immediately began to pat her.

– If we keep doing it, then you'll get hurt again and you won't be able to do special training, so won't that have the opposite effect?

– Uu... I understand.



Certainly, she thought that it was as Hayato says.

Although dissatisfied, Touka seems to agree with him.

– Well then, Shinshishō. See you tomorrow, and thank you very much!

– Huh, tomorrow?

Hayato was looking blankly at Touka who bowed her head.

– You can't? I'm planning to train again every morning so...

– ...umm, well...

Hayato is bewildered, being stared at by the supplicating Touka who raised her head.

If he accompanies Touka, he will have to get up early every day.

There's no problem if it's a holiday like today but doing it during weekdays is tough.

He also has training at school, and sometimes he associates with Emilia to do training at night.

But, as she was staring at him, supplicating him without moving, he couldn't bring himself to turn her down.

– ... well, if it's once every two days, then I can help you out.

That's his compromise mark.

He gave an ambiguous reply while turning away his eyes and scratching his cheek, but for Touka it was such a thing that she couldn't help but be very happy.

– Thank you very much, Shinshishō!

Touka continued speaking, showing a smile on her whole face.

– Then, I'll be under your care! See you tomorrow!

– ... eh?

She said tomorrow?

I want you to wait a moment.

While staring in puzzlement, Hayato thinks.

– Hold on, just now I said once every two days—

– Then, if you excuse me!

Without hearing Hayato's words until the end, Touka ran towards the *guesthouse* where she lives together with Karen and Sakura.

– Ah, wait...

The voice of Hayato reached her back.

Has she reacted to it?

Touka quickly stopped and looked back,

– Shinshishō!

She was mistaken with the day after tomorrow.

He thought that she was going to correct so but,

– Thank you for today!

As she said that, she waved one hand and took her leave as she was.

– Err, umm...

After all, the misunderstanding wasn't corrected.

– With this course of events, it will be absolutely necessary to help her with training tomorrow...

Even though he will be sleeping, she will unmistakably come and wake him up.

He has no choice but to give up already.

– ... haaa...

Hayato decided to enter the dormitory after taking a huge breath.

※ ※ ※

The place he just entered in the dorm is a large lobby.

It's the place where the students eat.

– Hey, if it isn't Hayato. Where have you been since early in the morning, huh?

Fritz suddenly started talking to him.

Now, the other members aren't in the lobby.

The current situation is that he is alone with Fritz.

– No way, you are coming back since you spent a hot night with Emilia?

In response to the words that were a hypothesis, Hayato became red.

– Wha, what are you saying...!

– I'm joking, I'm joking. You went to accompany Touka with her training, right? I heard your voices, you know. She has reached the point where she's able to fight again, isn't it?

– Still, she isn't completely recovered yet. So, we finished training and came back.

– Moreover, you look pretty tired.

– Even though we were practicing, she suddenly went with all her strength. She doesn't miss to do training every day, but I have the feeling that the skill of the sword will be released soon.

– That's because motivation is stronger than anything else. And it seems like I'm being scooped by Latia too.

– Scooped by... with her full armament?

– Pretty much. Well, she hasn't fully adjusted it yet, but she has room enough to catch up though. She didn't even use it in the tournament.

– ... but, if she's cornered, she'll use it without hesitation. That's what I feel.

– It's my role as a Long Shooter type to be of assistance and not end in that kind of situation.

Saying that, Fritz made a gun with his right hand and with a "BANG", he imitated a shoot.

– ... and, they are baking bread. They were just about to bake mine. Do you want something to drink?

– I want water for now.

– Roger that.

After Fritz finished eating the served breakfast.

When he got back to the room and lied on his bed, his whole body became drowsy.

It's been barely a week since the World Martial Arts Tournament has ended.

Even though his *vital* and *energy* are perfect, the fatigue that can't be seen anywhere in his body is accumulating.

(... I'll take a nap till noon...)

As soon as he closed his eyes, Morpheus came right away.

※ ※ ※

– ... hmm, Karen...?

Around 2 hours have passed since Hayato fell asleep.

– ... no, that's not it...

The voice of Karen reaches his ears.

But it was the ringtone of the PDA.

(Oh right, Karen did this one...)

It wasn't made to anyone.

It was made for himself only.

And to tell the truth, he was very pleased with it.

It's an incoming call from Emilia.

『Hey, Hayato. Won't you go to Central after this?』

He didn't answer, she immediately began to talk.

– Eh? Why?

Hayato asked back.

『I haven't gone to Central since I came back here. I've been wanting to eat lunch at *Biant* for a long while. Let's go together!』

Biant is a western cooking restaurant that is in Central, and the favorite store of Emilia.

Last month she came out from Little Garden for the whole tournament and she hasn't go to Central since she came back.

He guesses that she has wanted to eat there for a long time.

— ... I see... if so, let's go...

Hayato also likes the cooking of *Biant*, but even though the menu is different every day, he got tired of the school cafeteria and the breakfast served in the dormitory.

He doesn't have a reason to refuse.

『Yay!』

When Hayato answered, a really happy voice came back.

『Well then, see you in an hour in Central. Umm, the meeting place is——』

※ ※ ※

Exactly at the appointed time.

Hayato finished changed clothes and arrived before the water fountain near the heart of Central.

— Oh, Hayato!

Turning his eyes towards the direction of the voice that called him out, it was Emilia who is getting closer with a small run.

Emilia, who came close to Hayato took his arm and,

— Then, shall we go?

She brought her body to such a distance that they could feel the temperature of each other.

— ... hey, stop it.

As she was getting too close, Hayato rapidly pulls his arm apart, and Emilia pouted her lips.

— Why did you do tha—t. even though this is our long-awaited date...

– Because it’s embarrassing...

– There’s no need to be embarrassed, you know. Our relationship is already known by everyone .

– Why are you saying that... he-, hey!

Emilia went and got his arm again.

– Why, you say? Because we spent a night together in the same room .

– What are you saying...!

Hayato confirms his surroundings to the left and right while his face is bright red.

Here and there, some people were paying attention to them from afar, but they didn’t seem to hear the conversation.

(What a relief...)

Hayato felt relieved.

Even though they played an active role in the World Martial Arts Tournament, the existence of the two is no longer rare in Little Garden.

A few days after returning from Calbrera Island, on their way back to the school and the dorm,

There were times when they were greeted with things like「Thanks for your hard work」,「I watched the matches」,「Congratulations for the championship」, etcetera, but that has calmed now.

On his way to Central, he got called out only once.

Little Garden is a floating academy city which is not docking now.

It seems that the people they meet that give their blessings are just acquaintances.

Still, Hayato revealed his dissatisfaction to Emilia.

– But, it’s the truth. Even if it was for a little time, we lived in the same room of the same dorm——

– That’s why——, that...

Hayato's line of sight got pinned to Emilia's left hand.

It's because he saw a shining thing on her ring finger.

– Ah, you noticed it. This is the ring I got from Hayato.

Emilia showed a complacent smile on her face, holding out her left hand so that she could make a display of it in front of the eyes of Hayato.

– I was thinking that I had to wear it because this is a great opportunity.

– I, I guess you are right...

– Ehehe.... Then, let's go!

Incidentally, when she grabbed the wrist of Hayato with the hand that had the ring, a voice called out the two people.

– Ara, it's Hayato-san and Emilia-san. Are you two on a date?

Hayato and Emilia stopped their feet and turned around.

The figure of Kashiwagi Mihal, the person who works in the general hospital in Little Garden, was there.

– Oh, Mihal-san. You don't have to work today?

Hayato asked because Mihal's appearance wasn't the usual nurse uniform but plain clothes.

Her big breasts are emphasized, her clothes were very fantastic for Hayato.

– No, it's for a date. I was invited by Emilia to eat food in Central for a long while ago.... It's because Hayato-san and Emilia-san went to Calbrera Island for a long time.

Mihal slaps with both hands her breasts looking like she agreed to it.

Then, **BOING**, the big peaks bounced.

– Err, umm... I see...

Emilia noticed the destination of the line of sight of Hayato,

– *Annoyed.*

And knits her brows.

(I can't believe it. Even though he's with me, he acts lovestruck* while looking the boobs of Mihal...)

***TN: Word used here is deredere, it's hard to find a matching word here (and whenever used), as this doesn't have a translation per se.**

But, the *power* of those breasts is mighty.

Enough to make even Emilia admire them.

If he's tempted by those breasts, then Hayato might end up being snared by them.

(Alright, it's time to show my superiority here to make sure that no improper conduct happens between Hayato and Mihal!) Deciding that, Emilia held out her left hand in front of Mihal.

– Hey hey, Mihal. Look at this!

– Hey, you!

In a hurry, Hayato grabs the arm of Emilia who is trying to show Mihal the ring and took it down.

However, it seems that Mihal didn't fail to notice it.

– That just now, was a ring, correct?

– Yuup, that's right!

Emilia raised her arm again and showed the ring to Mihal.



– I received this from Hayato! It's beautiful, right?

– Absolutely, it's truly a beautiful ring.

– Right right? I got this as a birthday present!

– ... but, Emilia-san. The ring of the ring finger has the connotation of engagement— —

– Of course, I know about that. It's to emphasize that this is an important thing!

– Oh, I see. That's very charming.

Fufufu, Mihal smiles.

A smile with no maliciousness at all.

– ... which reminds me...

After holding her finger on her lips, she clapped her hands in front of her big chest.

– Hayato-san and Emilia-san, are you going to the moon?

– ...eh?

Emilia also has her eyes round in surprise, and the two of them look at each other's faces.

– By any chance, is there a rumor that we are going to the moon?

– No, that's not it. Because Karen-chan said that she's going to do training to go to Lunaltia Base next year, so I thought that Hayato-san and Emilia-san would also go...

– Oh, if you meant that then we'll also go.

However, they aren't being stationed there.

After all, they are the guards of Sakura and Karen.

Hayato tells Mihal that it's their duty as bodyguards.

– So, it has been decided like that. If Hayato-san and Emilia-san are the guards, then I'm sure that Karen-chan and Sakura-san can sing feeling secure.

– We aren't the only ones, Fritz and Latia are also going.

– The Prez and Erika-san seem to be staying at Lunaltia Base, and to tell the truth, there's no need for us to go but...

Emilia is saying that while showing a complacent smile, and turned her eyes

to Hayato and said the reason.

「Hayato is worried about Karen-chan. Hayato is a *siscon*」

– Yes, that’s right! I’m sorry for being a *siscon*, okay?!

– Hee-hee, no, not at all—

Emilia laughs happily at Hayato, making his face go bright red.

Mihal said, looking at these two people while chuckling and smiling.

– You two are really close, isn’t it?

– You think so—?

Emilia once again takes the arm of Hayato and pulls his body towards herself.

– Hey, stop it!

Hayato pulled Emilia apart and asked Mihal.

– Which reminds me, Mihal-san hasn’t planned to return to Yamato on spring break?

– ... eh? What do you mean?

– I have planned to return home on spring break because there’s an interview of my home town.

– I’m also going with him.

– I’m telling you, stop clinging to me!

Mihal, who saw Hayato trying to pull Emilia apart, answered with a smile.

– Unfortunately, we don’t have spring break.

– Oh...

Hayato realized once he was told so.

Spring break is a privilege of students.

– So, I’m not going to be able to return home this time. That’s why, you two enjoy yourselves.

– It’s not that we are going by ourselves only, Sakura and Karen—also Fritz and Latia...

– It would be fine it was just the two of us but— —

– Ah!

– Eh!?

Emilia pulled suddenly in one go the arm of Hayato

Hayato, lost his balance and due to that, collapsed into the direction of Emilia.

– Ouch...

– Ouch, that hurt...

Hayato and Emilia were intertwined in the street.

It looked like Hayato had pushed down Emilia.

As expected, the residents of Little Garden also weren't able to hide their excitement due to the state of the two people.

They gathered around the two people and stared to make noises.

– Uwaa, how indecent.

– Those guys, having the nerve to flirt in this place.

– Either way, those two people are already doing it.

– ... how should I put it, Emilia-san. You aren't wearing the ring on the ring finger!?

There were also a lot of people holding their PDAs, and *Click-Clack*, camera shutter sounds are sounding.

(Aaah, why is this happening!)

Hayato rapidly stood up and separated from Emilia.

– Umm, Mihal-san.... This.... We are leaving for now. Let's go, Emilia!

– Wait, Hayato!

Hayato pulled Emilia's arm to get her up and ran away to escape from that place.

※ ※ ※

– It's here...

Stopping his legs, Krovahn said.

Following him, Nakri and Nesat stopped her feet.

There's a huge door leading to the Student Council Room in front of the three people.

– Are you here, President? I brought Nakri and Nesat.

– Yes, I am here masuwayo.

Following the voice of Claire, the door opens.

Thereupon, Erika was standing next to it.

– Please come in.

Obeying the words of Erika, Krovahn and the girls step inside the Student Council Room.

– You came in time ~awane.

Claire spoke to the three people standing in front of her while sitting in front of the office desk.

– I had something to ask the three of you, that is why I had you to come to this place today.

In response to that, Krovahn answers.

– I heard from Mei Mei that it's a conversation that can't be spoken outside the Student Council Room... so what is it?

– You know about Lunaltia Base, correct desuwane?

– The thing about the base of the moon. Yeah, we know about it.

– In a few months, more than 10 Slayers, including me, will head from Little Garden to Lunaltia Base masu. In this regard, we want the three of you to accompany us to the moon desuwa.

– Wha...!!

– We?

– To the moon...?

Krovahn, Nakri and Nesat, the three of them looked at each other with very surprised faces.

– Of course, it is not compulsory and I am not going to say that you need to draw a conclusion immediately masen. I think that you three people have to carefully decide about what would you do masu.

However, Krovahn responded immediately.

– If the three of us are together, then I don't see the problem.

There's no need for hesitation.

That is his conclusion, and his behavioral principle.

– I think the same.

– If the three of us are together, there's no need to stick to the earth.

– Yeah, just like Nakri said. We, we have no relatives except ourselves.

Krovahn said for a second time.

Then, the expression of Claire became quiet.

– Relatives, you say...?

– What?

They probably noticed the unusual phenomenon of Claire.

Krovahn narrows his eyes and glares at Claire.

– To tell the truth, I have one more thing to talk with you. Erika, explain them—

– Yes.

Erika nodded, and brought the bag on the desk of Claire to Krovahn and the others.

– What is this?

Krovahn cocked his head in puzzlement, pushing out the bag.

– Letters of gratitude towards you.

– ... gratitude?

– You are now donating most of your salary that is provided by Little Garden to child welfare organizations, countries and private support groups in the Middle East region, correct? Those are their thanks desu. Besides—

Erika turns on the monitor installed in the Student Council Room.

There were the figures of children who are smiling in front of the gifted building.

– Letters of gratitude and photos of the buildings made with your money have also arrived a lot masu. And of course, e-mails desu.

– You made these children smile. I think that it's something to be proud of masuwayo.

Switching the monitor, naturally tears began to emerge in the eyes of the three people who are viewing photos and e-mails displayed one after another.

Everyone is pleased.

They are thankful for their actions.

They couldn't bear the happiness.

This is because it was their first time.

But—

– ... no, not yet.

Wiping away the tears that came from his eyes, Krovahn continued.

– This isn't enough, we need to help a lot more people. Don't you think so, Nee-chan, Nakri?

– Yeah!

– More.... More, to make a lot of people smile, we have to work hard.

Looking at the figure of the three people, Claire was naturally smiling.

– That is the spirit desuwa. So, continuing with the conversation—

– Huh? Wasn't this that another conversation?

– The story continues desu. The letter—

Erika took a letter from her chest and presented it to Nakri.

– Nakri, that is addressed to you.

– ... to me?

Nakri received the sealed letter from Erika and confirms the recipient's name and address of the reverse side.

– This is...

– It is from your mother desuwa.

It was Claire who said that.

– ... eh?

Nakri blinks in surprise, she can't believe it.

– A few minutes ago, you mentioned that you had no relatives except yourselves, but apparently it is not like that desu.

– Wait a moment! The adults in our village were all killed...

– ... I also heard that...

Nesat agrees to the words of Krovahn.

Following her, Nakri also agreed.

– Me too. But, this... a picture of mom came in.

The hands of Nakri shake.

In the picture she had in her hands, she saw the figure of her mom, who turned older since they were separated for many years, and it showed the people who lived in the same village.

– But it seems that it wasn't the case desuwa. It looks like a few people were able to successfully escape and made it to exile to another country desu.

– And among those, Nakri. Your mother was in there.

Erika supplements the words of Claire.

– But, how did she know that we are in Little Garden...?

– The World Martial Arts Tournament is a worldwide competition. The videos

have been broadcasted on various media, and the results are being informed masu. And that's not different in the Middle East region desuwa.

– Besides, you are now famous in the Middle East region. It wouldn't be strange if they hear that rumor, don't you agree?

– ... so, Nakri. What's written in the letter?

– She wants to meet me, in person...

Nakri muttered while reading the letter.

– To meet her or not meet her, you are free to choose desu.

Claire said so, turns her line of sight towards Nakri and asks her a question.

– Would you like to meet her? Or you don't want to?

–

Krovahn said to Nakri who was pondering deeply.

– It's fine if you want to meet her.

– ... yeah...

Nakri nodded and gazes at Claire— —

– I'll meet her. I want to meet my mom.

– Alright desuwa.

– By the way, it looks like your mother was saying that she wants to take care of all of you desu.

– Eh, to take care of us you say...

Visibly surprised, Nakri asks.

– Exactly as stated, she wants to live together with you.

Saying that, Claire turned down her eyes and continued.

– Thanks to your active participation in the World Martial Arts Tournament, Little Garden won the championship and was able to take the hegemony in the development of Lunaltia Base. Besides, we have already observed you and we comprehend that you aren't an evil influence to the world anymore masu.

That means that Krovahn and the others are free.

– So, decide on your own after you meet your blood relative about what you are going to do.

– Based on the matter of Lunaltia Base, your options will be divided into three particularly important ones.

With that as the introduction, Erika begins to explain.

The first choice.

That is

『Leave Little Garden and live with your family』

However, the condition is that they belong to Little Garden as reservists.

They must not fail to do training as a Slayer every day, and to receive training at Little Garden or in a related institution several times a year, and in case of emergency, they can be obligated to be dispatched and fight as one of the Slayers of Little Garden, and of course, they are going to get paid whenever they are dispatched and when they do their daily training.

That amount of money is enough for a family of four to live wealthy, even if one person goes to the trainings.

The second option is that they'll be living the same life but in Little Garden.

The last of the three is that they head to Lunaltia Base as members of Little Garden.

— One thing to end— —

After Erika finished telling all the options, Claire said to add.

— Now you are an important fighting force of Little Garden, and important companions desu. I would like you to go to Lunaltia Base and without fail demonstrate that power.

※ ※ ※

The day before Nakri will go to meet with her mother.

Krovahn and company, that is the three of them, stayed in a lodging house of Al Salaam that is in the Kingdom of Khmer.

It's a special room for visitors, the interior design was pretty much like a hotel.

Three big beds are lying next to each other.

Over them, Krovahn, Nakri and Nesat were lying down.

— Nee-chan, what are you doing?

Krovahn talked to Nesat who's lying on the bed next to him and is touching

the PDA.

– I’m reading novels...

– ... novels? Reading a book that only has characters, isn’t that boring?

– I, like them. I’m gaining all sorts of knowledge.

– ... knowledge?

Krovahn got up from the bed and got closer to Nesat, then he snatched the PDA from her hand and turned his eyes to the screen.

– The hell is this...

I had the feeling that it I heard it that time, the sound of falling in love.

There is no doubt about it now, seeing the expression of Arisa talking with Selim.

That is the face of a girl in love.

I wanted Arisa to fall in love with me.

I thought so.

But, seeing that my opponent is Selim——

(What should I do?)

My chest tightens.

– If I’m not mistaken, this is a romance novel?

– Give it back!

Nesat, despite being red, attacks Krovahn and tries to snatch away the PDA.

– Stop, Nee-chan! I’ll give it back!

Krovahn returns the PDA to Nesat by throwing it.

It was Nesat who caught and got back the PDA, but her face is still dyed red.

And then——.

– ... !!

She was staring at Krovahn.

– I like battle manga that makes the blood tingle with excitement. I mean, what's the knowledge you gain from romance stories, huh?

– ... As for Krovahn, I don't know.

– If so, does Nakri know about it?

– Huh?

The face of Nakri was suddenly shaken, her face got bright red, then turned her eyes towards Krovahn.

– Ah, about that I... there are things I understand, and things I don't understand...

Nakri answers and removes her line of sight.

She was moving her fingers with hesitation in front of her chest.

– What's that answer...

Not to mention the reaction, he doesn't really understand the meaning of the answer.

– I really don't understand you.

Muttering and exasperated, Krovahn deposited his whole body on the bed and look up the ceiling.

Seeing his state, Nesat thinks, while feeling relieved.

Nakri, do your best——

※ ※ ※

– You are heading to Lunaltia Base. Are you all okay with the conclusion you decided desuwane?

A few days after they met with Nakri's mother.

Krovahn and the others came to the Student Council room and met with Claire.

It's to report the events in the Kingdom of Khmer.

– Yeah, that's right.

Krovahn replied Claire, who asked the question.

Of course, that conclusion isn't just decided by Krovahn.

He decided it together with Nesat and Nakri, the three of them.

— — — Not only Nakri, I'd like to live with Krovahn and Nesat too.

That was the proposal of Nakri's mother.

It would be a lie to say that they weren't shaken by those words.

Still, the conclusion that the three people submitted was that they will go together to the moon.

— Why? Even though we could obtain our long-awaited happy lives...

The response of Nakri's mother who heard the conclusion of the three people is obvious.

Nakri answered her.

— Err, umm...

Nakri said embarrassed, while scratching her cheek.

— In order for mom and everyone to have happy daily lives, we have to go to the moon. To protect the earth from the Savage, as well as to donate the money earned for the stability and development of this region. I think that's what we must do now. Well, um... noburisu... Nesat, how was the name of that thing again?

— ... *Noblesse Oblige*.

Nesat supplements the words of Nakri.

— Yeah that same *Noblesse Oblige* thing. Besides— —

Nakri's gaze was directed to a man holding a small child in his arms.

— Mom has... a new family, isn't it? So, you shouldn't be sad. Okay?

Nakri declared so, then walked to the child and touched his cheek with her fingertips. His cheek sunk. His cheeks are very soft.

The child raises a loud voice and turns a smile to Nakri.

– In this way, we have to work hard so that the children can small all the time.
So, mom. Please root for us.

The days they spent together were very short compared to the time when they were away from each other.

Nevertheless, that time for Nakri, her mother and her family— —.

And, for Nesat and Krovahn, it became a very, very important treasure.

– Well then, we'll return to Little Garden.

– Wait— —

Nakri's mother called them out, the voice reached the backs of Krovahn and the others, and she said when they turned around.

– Nakri. Will you come to see me again?

– ... yup, of course. I will come back again without fail.

Answering with resolution and with a happy smile, Nakri continued.

– When that happens, prepare the best delicious meal like the one the night before yesterday. In the moon, I don't know if we are going to be able to eat delicious meals— —

※ ※ ※

– That thing happened desuka?

Claire smiled.

— — *Noblesse Oblige*.

It was because she was glad that the three of them have the same sentiment as her.

– Well then, the three of you are going to Lunaltia Base with me, is that correct desuwane?

– Yes.

– Of course.

Nakri and Krovahn answered in succession.

– ... Nesat also agrees, correct desuka?

Claire asked Nesat, who was looking down and was standing behind the two of them.

– Eh, ah, yeah.... It's fine, I guess.

Krovahn poked with his elbow the side of Nesat and replied.

– Nee-chan, why are you acting so vaguely, huh?

– ... sorry.

Nesat apologizes.

Continuing, Claire said.

– Understood. Well then, I will make the arrangements masu. If you change your mind, please let me know.

※ ※ ※

Nesat was feeling gloomy since the day when they decided to go to Lunaltia Base after the reunion with Nakri's mother.

The reason was understandable.

It's because she will be apart from the person she doesn't want to be apart.

(... Kisaragi, Hayato...)

To be near the man one likes is one of the happiest things for a woman.

It was written on the book she read the other day that had compatibility with her feelings.

So, she has no doubt.

But——

(... *Noblesse Oblige*...)

In order to keep her spirit, she will have to go with Nakri and Krovahn to the moon.

(I, the Onee-chan.... That's why, I have to persevere...)

Nesat has repeatedly told herself that so many times.

Still, she's gloomy, and can't calm down.

– Nee-chan, what's the matter?

– Eh?

He probably noticed the strangeness of Nesat.

Krovahn asks a question.

(This is bad, I was in the middle of eating now...)

The taken aback Nesat pierced the *chicken saute* that was in front of her with the fork and carried it to her mouth.

– Nee-chan has been kind of absent lately, aren't you?

– Th., *dath*, that's not true!

She rapidly swallows the *chicken saute* and returns the response.

– What the, why are you flustering like that. And your face is all red, you know.

– I'm telling you, it's nothing!

Nesat answered, strongly hitting the table with both hands, and denied it with all her power while standing up.

The tableware makes a violent sound.

– Whoa, why are you agitating like that. You are absolutely different from usual.

– ... because this doesn't concern Krovahn.

Nesat, suddenly in a bad mood, turned away her face and walked towards the entrance.

Krovahn calls her out on her back.

– Hey, where are you going?

– Outside.

– ... outside? What about your food? There's still half of it.

– ... I don't need it...

Nesat leaves the living room without looking back.

Krovahn muttered while seeing off dumbfounded the unaffected retreating figure.

– Just what, on earth...

He looks to the face of Nakri while murmuring as if he was asking.

– Who knows?

Nakri answered with no interest and carried the *chicken saute* that is in front of her into her mouth.

※ ※ ※

– Haaa...

She was embarrassed because she was pointed out by her brother that her face was red, and felt like he had seen through her feelings for Hayato.

And then Nesat rushed out to the outside with the momentum.

–

The burning sensation of her face had quieted down with the wind, but she doesn't want to go home right now.

Because there's the possibility that Krovahn will be prying too much into it and there will be a similar situation again.

(...I shall run a little...)

If she stands motionlessly, she will be thinking unnecessary things, so she concludes that it would be better to move her body, and begins to run.

However, she had to stop her feet soon.

Because she saw the full moon in the sky.

– ... the moon...

How much more time will pass until she has to go there?

In the meanwhile, how many times with that person——.

If I meet you, will I be able to speak with you?

When she thinks about it, her chest tightens.

– ... huh? Is that you, Nesat?

– Eh?

In response to that voice, Nesat looks back.

– ... Hayato? Why are you here? Uwa...

Looking at him, Kisaragi Hayato's hands had a wooden sword.

Next to him is Kenzaki Touka.

– I'm accompanying Touka on her special training. And we were just about to go back. And what was Nesat doing?

– Eh, umm...

Nesat mumbles.

There, Touka opened her mouth.

– Shinshishō.

– What is it?

Hayato turns his eyes to Touka,

– ... you are going to talk for a while, right? There's a TV program that I would like to watch for a while, so if you excuse me, I shall take my leave.

– ... hmm? Oh, it's anime. See you then.

– Yes! Thank you very much for today!

While waving her hand, Touka run off towards the house she lives together with Sakura and Karen.

While looking her retreating figure, Nesat thinks.

(... I'm happy...)

With this, she's alone with Hayato.

It's possible to spend time just the two of them, with the person she likes.

– I'm sorry, she does things at her own pace. So, umm... what were we talking about?

– About what I was doing here...

– Oh, you are right.

It seems Hayato just remembered.

– The moon—

Saying that, Nesat continues.

– I was watching the moon.

– The moon, huh...

When he turned his eyes to the night sky, a big moon was floating there.

It's a moon that looks bigger when looking at it in Yamato.

– Do you like the moon?

While looking up at the moon, Hayato asks.

– ... that's not it.

Nesat shook her head to the left and right and answered.

– Lunaltia Base... I'm going there, I was invited by the President.

– Eh...?

– Krovahn and Nakri too...

– So, are you going?

Nesat nods.

– If they go, then I will also go. We are together, the three of us. Krovahn and Nakri are also wishing for it, and I as the older sister, I have to look after them... so...

Hanging her head, Nesat stop her words.

Without moving, a few seconds of silence passed.

– ... maybe Nesat doesn't want to go?

– !

She felt that her whole hair stood on its end.

Why does this man know what I thought?

– Why, do you think so?

Nesat asks.

– Hmm...

Hayato showed a troubled look, and answered while scratching his head.

– For some reason or another, you looked like that.

– ... is, is that so...

Smiling and feeling embarrassed while hanging her head, Nesat replied, having upturned eyes.

– ... correct, I guess...

She timidly rubs her fingertips together.

– Is that so? Why?

– Eh...?

Nesat looks at Hayato with a puzzled face.

– Well, thinking about why you don't want to go...

– ... ah!

The face of Nesat gazed at Hayato, it turns red very fast in the middle of it—

– I-I think I'm scared...!

Nesat replied, turning her face away.

—It is painful for me to not able to see you.

She can't tell the motive, so she hid her embarrassment.

– I see, it's fine to be scared.

Hayato shows a soft smile.

– No one has been there, I don't know what kind of dangers are there.... But, I'm sure if it's Nesat, she'll be okay—

– Eh...?

Nesat is puzzled, she's being gently wrapped by Hayato's arms.

Her face is also dyed red.

– Eh, umm.... Wh-, why, doing this...

– Why you say? Nesat is strong. She can stand, no matter the place.

– I'm, I'm not referring to that... Why are you doing this....

– Oh, perhaps you don't like it?

– N-, no! I do like it!

Nesat objects desperately.

(What, what am I saying...!)

She's already hopeless.

Her brain is boiling, and she doesn't really understand what's what.

She doesn't even know what she's saying.

– I, I see.... Then I'm glad. With this, I think you'll calm down.

– Ah, yeah.... Calm down.... So, Hayato...

– ... hmm?

– Let me stay like this for a while.

– Su-, sure...

– Thank you... I'm happy...

She turns her arms around the body of Hayato and embraces him tightly.

Thanks to that, Hayato was able to feel the two soft swellings of her chest.

Both Hayato and Nesat are only wearing a shirt on the upper half of their bodies.

– U, umm...

Nesat looked up while Hayato flusters.

Then, a gap is formed between the bottom of the neck and the clothes.

From there, he could see a fleeting glimpse of her breasts.

(... she's not wearing a bra?)

With a gulp, Hayato swallowed saliva.

– Hayato... a bit more... like this...

– O-, okay...

Nesat begged with wet eyes, pushing her head to his chest once again.

(Umm, what should I do...?)

He didn't plan to do that, and it feels somewhat strange.

What's the deal with this? Hayato is confused.

Suddenly the PDA in his pocket made a sound.

It's the ring tone of an incoming call.

It's the song debut of Karen.

– I'm sorry.

Hayato separates from Nesat and checks the PDA.

– It's from my little sister— —Karen. Are you feeling better?

– Yeah.

Nesat nodded, and after a pause, she said.

– Because I will go back home.

– I see...

– Thank you, Hayato. Good night.

Turning around, Nesat runs away.

– Ah...

While thinking that he couldn't return his good night, Hayato answered the incoming call.

– Hello.

Then, a thorny voice comes back.

『Nii-san, you were very slow to answer the phone. What were you doing with

Nesat-san?』

– Eh, how do you know that...?

『I heard it from Touka-san. It seemed like there was a conversation between you two, so she came back earlier』

– Ah...

It seems they know that much.

(That Touka, saying unnecessary things...)

However, because she wasn't forbidden to speak, he can't blame her.

– Rather than a conversation it was a simple coincidence that we met here... and I already parted with her, I'm alone now.

『Is that true? So why did it take so long for you to answer the phone?』

– You'll be surprised if you get a phone call while you are walking all of a sudden, don't you think? Besides, I put it in my bag.

『You are not lying?』

– I'm not lying.

『Okay then, it's fine if that's the case but...』

After a little silence.

Karen said, as if she was muttering.

『Nesat-san has a dangerous smell...』

– Why are you saying that?

『Forget it, I was talking to myself』

– So, you need to tell me something?

『That's right! It's about the spring break but——』

※ ※ ※

– Ah, Nee-chan. You came back.

Krovahn, who was laying down on the sofa and was reading manga on a Tablet PC, greeted her sister and stood up while she goes to her bedroom

across the living room.

—

But, there's no reaction. Nesat goes through before his eyes and while she shows a smiling and grinning expression on her face, she enters her bedroom.

— What the...?

Krovahn muttered, he didn't understand the reason.

— Say, Nakri.

Krovahn lies down on another sofa and speaks to Nakri who was playing games on a mobile device.

— ... hmm what is it?

Nakri raised her face and looked at the location of Krovahn.

— Don't you think that Nee-chan's mood became better or something like that?

— Eh, is that so? I don't get it though.

Answering, Nakri turned her line of sight towards the gaming device once again.

※ ※ ※

Nesat entered her room, then lay down on the bed and hugged the pillow tightly.

She remembers the thing of just a few minutes ago.

It was at the time when she was being hugged by Kisaragi Hayato.

She was very, very happy.

But——.

(This will stop, this will come to an end...)

Because she's going to the moon.

That's very frustrating, she was very sad.

(Haa...)

The thing called love is really complicated.

She thinks so from the bottom of her heart.

But— —.

She just wanted to be immersed in happiness while evoking memories of warmth happiness in the futon now.

— ... hnn, Hayato...

Murmuring, Nesat closes her eyes.

While asking for a very lovely dream.

Chapter 3: Spring Break *The Paths of Everyone Sudden Kiss*

After the afternoon practical training has ended.

At the training grounds of the school, Hayato and the others are in their Variable Suits and gathered together, forming a circle and were talking to each other while having a drink in one of their hands.

Hayato, Fritz, Latia, Shuemei and Noah, those five are there.

– Hayato is returning home to Yamato during spring break, isn't it?

It's Fritz who talked.

– Yeah, I'm going to do that.

Hayato answers.

– Certainly, Emilia said she's going with you, right?

This time, Latia asked.

She'd like to see the children at the institution.

Hayato answers and continues his words.

– Sakura and Karen are also going but... oh right, you guys, what are you going to do for spring break?

– We haven't decided yet. I was talking with Latia yesterday and she said that it'd be great if we could go to Yamato with you.

– ... eh? You guys want to go to Yamato?

Hayato was surprised at the reply he didn't expect.

There, Latia complemented.

– We might end up working at Lunaltia Base for a while. So, we were talking and thinking about wanting to see various places on the earth at once.

It seems that they want to come together to Yamato as part of that.

– Yamato, that’s great, don’t you think? I’d also like to go there once. The beautiful buildings in the scenery of each season. Mt. Fuji, temples, Shinto shrine——and it seems that there is a lot of delicious food too.

It was Shuemei that said so in a spellbound state.

The Qin Empire where she comes from is close to Yamato.

However, Shuemei has never visited Yamato.

Continuing, Noah raised her voice.

– Me too, me too! I’ve been interested in a long time in Akihabara since I watched anime and read manga from Yamato!

– Then, would you like to go to Yamato with us? You can take advantage of this and go for free.

Fritz invites Noah and Shuemei.

However, Shuemei replied with a big sigh.

– By all means I’d like to say so but, I said that for spring break I’ll be coming back to my parents’ home...

– It’s the same for me. They are going to do a celebration or something like that—

Noah turns both hands to the ceiling saying “*dear me!*” and shows an exasperated expression.

– A celebration?

Why a celebration? Hayato cocks his head in puzzlement.

Thinking the same that Hayato, Latia asked.

– About what? A birthday?

– Nope, that’s not it...

Shaking her head, Noah answers.

– It’s a celebration for my participation in the World Martial Arts Tournament. I told them that anyone can come out as long as they are registered for individual matches, but they told me that I was being humble. Because I came

out on representation of the institution——

– Wow, so that's the reason! If so, then it's pretty sure because you've been selected from Little Garden as well, and honestly, shouldn't be ok if you go and celebrate?

– But, I couldn't break through the preliminary contest...

Noah sighs a little, and turns her eyes to Shuemei.

– It does no good to celebrate just that. Because we have gotten even more stronger. Don't you think so, Shuemei?

– Yeah.

Shuemei firmly nodded.

It looks like the motivation of the two people has further ignited since they came out of the World Martial Arts Tournament.

Who came there was Alphonse.

– Of course, I've become even stronger too!

He came from the side while raising his voice.

He spreads his hands and continued his words while jumping repeatedly.

– It seems like in the home town of François Kingdom, a fan club of me was made! I was told that I was cute, strong, and cool!

– Umm...

Noah, who scratched her cheek in confusion, looked at Silver Blitz who's jumping repeatedly like him at his feet.

It's the same for Shuemei, who's also looking at Silver Blitz.

In the ears of Shuemei, Noah whispered.

– I'm 100% sure that it's not about Alphonse, but it's about Silver Blitz, right?

– Probably, yeah...

Shuemei agrees.



However, those words didn't reach Alphonse.

– Therefore, we must make sure to not betray the expectations of the fans!

– *Howling Sound!*

***TN: Oowooooo!**

At the feet of the motivated Alphonse, Silver Blitz did a loud howl.

– Ah, yeah.... Do your best...

Though not quite satisfactorily, and after she called him out, Noah said what she remembered.

– Oh right, Shuemei is also going to be celebrated once you return?

– It would be great if it was a celebration rather than another thing though...

Shuemei gave a big sigh, knitting her eyebrows, looking troubled.

– ... hmm, something happened?

– Actually, yesterday, I got contacted to have a formal marriage interview.

– Eh!

– A formal marriage interview!?

Noah and Latia raised a loud voice at the same time.

– Hey hey, Shuemei. What do you mean with that?

Noah wants to listen to the details, and draws near Shuemei.

– Err, when men saw me fighting at the World Martial Arts Tournament, there seems to be several of them who had an interest in me...

It's said that Slayers of the Qin Empire are among them.

Because of their occupation, the Slayers don't know when they will die, so a lot of them get married early.

The relatives of Shuemei who knew about it seemed to be enthusiastic about the formal marriage interviews.

– But, in the case of the women, if they get married, in the majority of the cases they retire as a Slayer...

Shuemei said with a depressed expression. Fritz nods.

– That’s how it is.

– I had a talk recently with Noah. While studying in Little Garden, we went to the World Martial Arts Tournament, we fought for this world, and for that reason we wanted to be stronger, and we think that we became stronger. It’s so wrong retiring in such a way...

– Did you say that to your parents?

– I told them. But...

– You couldn’t get them to listen to your words.

– Nope.

– I don’t even understand that feeling.

Fritz placed a hand on the head of Latia.

– Unlike this one, Shuemei seems to be a good bride.

– Whaa!!

Shuemei becomes deep red. And at the same time Latia, who turned red, punched Fritz while turning her hands.

– You bastard, let me say you one thing!

– Hahaha, my bad, my bad.

Fritz turns his eyes to Shuemei while pinning down the approaching Latia with one hand.

– Well, I understand the worries of your parents. You are her important daughter. I can understand that it can’t be helped if they think that entering to a family is better in comparison to a job where you could lose your life.

– It’s fine if that’s the case, but...

The facial expression of Shuemei got cloudy very fast.

– ... that’s not it?

– If Fritz-san leaves the martial arts department, and if you have more than a certain level of ability, you know that there’s a method where you can belong to

Little Garden as a reserve even after retirement, right?

– Of course, I'm aware of such a thing.

– Although one has to fight in case of emergency, it's safer than now. And wages will also be issued. Besides, it's said that the child of a Slayer has high possibilities of being born as a Slayer, and if that's the case, then the family of Ryu is going to be safe for a while in one way or another...

– In other words, you feel like you are being used for the benefit of your family.

– Yeah, it's like that...

– Ah, I thought something good!

Without a warning, Noah gave a loud voice. Leaning towards Hayato, and with sparkling and shining eyes, Noah continues her words.

– If you are so against the formal marriage interview, then it's fine of you become the fiancée of Hayato-san!

– ... eh, me!!?

– Such a thing, it's impossible....! Kisaragi-san is more than I deserve!

Awawawa, Shuemei pushed out both hands in front of her chest and shook them to the left and right.

– But, there aren't many Slayers at the same level of Hayato-kun, and both his appearance and his personality are great for a man, so you are using it as an excuse, as an excuse!

– Umm...

What should I do?

Hayato was scratching his head, this was very similar when he was with Emilia in Gudenburg.

Emilia, who joined training with students of another martial arts department, gets where they are.

– Engagement you say? Do you mean you are talking about the ring that Hayato gave me?

– Ring!?

– What, a ring!?

Shuemei and Noah raised their voice at the same time.

– Hey, Emilia. What are you saying so suddenly!?

– ... eh, you weren't talking about the ring?

. You can pretty much guess that no!

The ring is a birthday gift to Emilia.

He decided to tell Shuemei and Noah, in order to prevent any misunderstandings, that on the first day of the World Martial Arts Tournament, Fritz dropped a target practice of a booth, and the thing that Emilia wanted was the present that Fritz gave to Latia.

Next, he tells Emilia about the conversation of Shuemei's formal marriage interview.

– ... Oh, you were talking about that. But, if the decision falls on Shuemei only, then there's no need to get lost. If you don't like it then it's fine to say you don't like it. It's the best to live your life as you want.

– That might be true but...

– Like me, since I jumped out from my home under my own accord.

Emilia smiles with a grin.

– I think that's really amazing... even though you are an Ohime-sama...

Shuemei turns a look of respect.

– Well, I guess it's no good if you respect her that much?

Hayato said so without thinking.

Then, everyone who was there had a wry smile.

Thereupon, and all of a sudden, Emilia shouted.

– Oh right! Hayato! We have to go to the Prez!

– Ah...

With those words, Hayato also remembered.

– To the place of the Prez? Did something happen?

Fritz looks at Hayato's face and asks him.

– Emilia and I were called to have a talk with her. And we are going to inform her that you guys want to go to Yamato too.



– ... President, what's the thing you want to talk about?

Hayato, who entered the Student Council room with Emilia, asks the president.

– Then Claire, who's sitting in front of the office desk, replied.

– I have a something to ask you desu.

Erika and Chris are the only ones in the room.

– ... a question?

Hayato asks.

– Erika, the example material——

– Yes.

Erika projected a piece of material on the huge monitor set up in the Student Council room.

At the top part of the material 『Kisaragi Hayato compilation, Emilia Hermit compilation』is written

– As you can see, Kisaragi Hayato, Emilia Hermit. There is a request for an interview from a TV station of Liberia to you two desu.

According to Claire, it's a documentary program that looks back on the path of the Slayers who played an active role in the World Martial Arts Tournament and called the attention because of that.

– I'm not doing it. I refuse.

Emilia replied immediately.

– I thought you would say that mashitawa.

Claire leaked a breathing from her nose.

The rumor in which Emilia is part of the royalty of the Kingdom of Gudenburg in the Federation of Britannia, seems plausible.

– ... be that as it may, it's a rumor after all.

The story of her birthplace and the reason why she aimed to be a Slayer are what Emilia wants to hide at all costs.

She wanted to keep those things in secret.

– ... and how should I put it, if both Hayato and I decline, then it's fine if Prez takes the interview?

– Interviews of me have already been done many times desuwa. It seems they wanted to do an interview of you since you are fresh interesting people desu.

– Hmm, so that's the reason....

– So, Kisaragi Hayato. If that's alright with you, please get in touch with them and let me know about your local interview while returning home, understood?

– Err, can I have some time to decide it...?

Although the building where Hayato lived doesn't exist anymore, if he does the interview, there might be photographs of the institution too.

The permission of the manager of the institution, Kizaki Ryōko, is necessary.

– Besides...

Hayato looked towards Emilia.

She suffered an injury due to the *Second Attack* in Gudenburg.

And it's basically a secret that he became a Variant by doing something like saving Emilia.

– You don't have to worry as well masenwayo.

Claire continues her words.

If Emilia Hermit wants to hide herself, then it's fine if we create a story desu. Chris has already come up with an idea masu.

And then, that idea was displayed on the screen.

1. Kisaragi Hayato lost his parents in the *Second Attack* and lived in the institution.
2. In order to earn money to pay the hospital's fee of the illness of his little sister, to revenge his parents, and because he wanted the children who are in the same circumstances to live better, he aimed to be a Slayer. With that, anything related to Emilia is omitted.

– It feels like I was erased from the past of Hayato, it doesn't make me happy at all but...

Emilia murmured and became sulky.

– If so, then what would you like to include in the response plan?

– No, it's just...! I just don't want to stand out too much, and although it became a rumor, I don't want to make public about why I'm a Variant or why I'm a princess...

– You are right, what am I going to do about me being a Variant?

– Preferably, I think that it is better to make the information opened to the public, but how are you going to do it masuka?

He activated it during the fight of Gert, and became quite a rumor on the *cybernet*.

Because there's a video, it would be rather unnatural to hide it.

– In that case, did you hide the fact that he got infected because of me?

– Yes.

Nodding, Chris continued.

– The plan we decided says that he survived the attack of the Savage in Gudenburg.

– Somehow it seems like I'm telling a lie, and it doesn't make me feel very

well...

He felt like he was doing something bad.

That's why Hayato was excessively halfhearted.

– ... however, a *hero* needs a story desu. The position of Kirishima Sakura is the one called *Idol*, and she has hidden information and information available to the public, correct?

– Certainly, that's the case but...

– Besides, you don't have to worry. If you carry out the interview plan, then I will travel together with you to Yamato desu. If at some point there seems to be a problem, I will stand to stop it myself masuwa.

– ... eh, the President is?

In a surprised state, Hayato stared in wonder.

– Yes, I am used to interviews, and I can also fulfill my duties as a representative masu.

– Then Claire-sama is heading towards Yamato together with Hayato and the others?

Erika is shaking.

– Tha-that's right desuwayo.

Claire also blushes a little and answered.

– I am hearing that argument for the first time... shouldn't be fine if you leave it to the people of the Yamato branch of Warslan?

– Ack...

Receiving the point of Erika, Claire was left without words.

– I agree, if Hayato seems to wander, then I'll stop it, so we don't need the president!

– Ack!

Claire once again was left without words against Emilia who agrees completely to the opinion of Erika.

Erika and Emilia glare with reproachful eyes at Claire.

– Err, umm...

Claire dodged the gazes from the two people and though she was faltering, she tries to change the conversation.

– Hey desuwa, Chris. Come to think of it, was there an invitation from her Highness the Princess of Yamato, where she wants to celebrate the championship of team battles of the World Martial Arts Tournament mashitawane?

– Yes, there is one but...

– This is a perfect opportunity, could you please get in touch with them and say that we would like to have an audience with her Highness the Princess? Kisaragi Hayato. Let's meet her Highness the Princess together.

– Even so, it's a different matter than accompanying for the interview...

Emilia whispered at the ear of Erika who muttered while her cheeks become stiff.

– Why the Prez is trying to go to Yamato by force?

– ... you also think so, Emilia Hermit?

Erika brings her mouth closer to the ear of Emilia and keeps talking secretly.

– I sympathize with your concern. Let's stop her with all our might.

– Got it. I'm counting on you.

After they nodded to one another with their eyes.

Erika looked at Claire.

– Claire-sama——

– ... what is it desuno?

– We acknowledged Claire-sama to go to Yamato. That being the case, I will accompany you to——

– You can't masenwa.

– Why!?

The ship was sent to the bottom in the blink of an eye.

Overly shocked, Erika raised a loud voice without thinking.

– If you go to Yamato, who is going to do the control and administration of Little Garden?

– Li-, Liddy is going to do them.... Anyhow, she is also the next candidate for president...

– Eh, Liddy-san is the next president?

That's the first time that Hayato hears about it. Of course, it's also the same for Emilia.

– Ah, I am sorry. Claire-sama. If you...

Erika panics and apologizes.

– It's fine desuwayo. Kisaragi Hayato, Emilia Hermit. This conversation is confidential. Aside from that, even if Liddy does the control and administration, assistants are necessities. I am grateful that you and Liddy are giving me your support so I can serve as the president.

Claire answers calmly.

But, in the inside, she wasn't like that.

(If Erika comes, I will be stuffed with more work than planned masuwa.... In the hometown of Kisaragi Hayato, and as much as possible, to spend time together with Kisaragi Hayato—whaa, what am I thinking about masuno! I should have already given up on Kisaragi Hayato... and yet...)

Of course, Erika guessed the inner feelings of the Claire in love.

But, she can't give up.

She has a promise with Emilia Hermit.

– But then, maybe for the danger to not reach the body of Claire-sama...

– Since Kisaragi Hayato and Emilia Hermit will be there, that won't be a problem, don't you agree?

– Ah...

Certainly, that's exactly the case.

Erika has an Arsene type Hundred— it's a weapon used for bodyguarding and to capture the target called Everlasting.

However, Emilia is also capable of creating chains with the ever-changing appearance of her Innocent type Hundred *Arms Shroud*.

Her strength is higher than mine— no matter what I say, it won't have an effect.

Emilia and Hayato are above in terms of martial arts skills.

Both of them have gained experience since entering Little Garden, so she can't say as a reason that they lack experience.

— Certainly, I agree with Claire-sama...

Eventually, Erika had no choice but to withdraw.

— ... hmm, that's right.

— What is it mashitano?

— It's about returning home, both Fritz and Latia also were saying that they want to go to Yamato with us. They want to go around the world before going to the moon.

— Is-, is that so desuka...?

Despite showing a slightly disturbed look, Claire continued.

— I want to go to Yamato too, it resembled a similar reason that I have desuwayo.

— Is that true?

— Ye-, yes...

— ... so, as for you two, if you want to take a spring break at the same time, I have no problem with that. Other first-year students are developing and there shouldn't be problems in case of emergencies. Rather, it may be possible for them to gain experience.

— — So then.

From the Student Council of Little Garden, only Claire decided to head for Yamato. Along with that, she decided to accompany Fritz and Latia to Yamato.

And, around the same time— —.

In the laboratory under the school building of the martial arts department of Little Garden, Charlotte, the *main technologist* of Little Garden, and Mei Mei, her assistant, enjoyed teatime surrounding a table.

Charlotte has coffee and put in it a lot of milk and syrup, Mei Mei is drinking assam tea and eats the donuts placed on the table.

– Now that I think of it, about the matter of Lunaltia Base— —

– What is the matter with Lunaltia Base?

– He didn't come to me but, Judal-kun invited me.

– Does that mean that Charlotte-sama, like Claire-sama and the others, will go to Lunaltia Base?

– Nope, I refused. I'm going to stay here for a while.

– I am surprised! Charlotte-sama is a person who is brimming with curiosity, I thought you will be delighted.

– Let's have an honest talk.

Charlotte continued with a serious look.

– I think it's too premature for mankind to get to the moon. Judal-kun is too impatient because mankind obtained *Variable Stones*, and it's fine to say they are the forbidden fruit too. Besides— —

– Besides?

– The movements of Puritaria are also worrisome.

– Charlotte-sama is quite concerned to regard Puritaria as such.

– As you saw from the tournament, that pope doesn't seem to be an ordinary person. The construction plan proposed from their side is also quite sophisticated. However, I can't really understand what they are thinking. That's why I'm worried. I hope everything is just needless anxiety. But, I want to see their circumstances a little more. There are a couple of other things to worry

about, but those are already under investigation. So, instead of me, Mei Mei—will you go to the moon?

– ... eh?

Mei Mei stares in wonder.

– Me?

– Even if I do experiments at distance, I'll need a person to do actual work. If it's you, I can trust on that. I'd like to ask your consent and the dangers of this.

– I understand. I will follow the orders of Charlotte-sama.

– ... I'm sorry.

– No, my life was saved by Linis-sama, and now as well, it is kind of like I am being revived by Charlotte-sama. From now on, I will follow your instructions until then.

– I'm grateful that you say so.

– By the way, I have a suggestion.

– What is it? Wait, don't tell me that you don't want that weapon attached on your body?

– No, that's not it. Umm, well...

Around the time when Charlotte and Mei Mei were having such conversation, Hayato was heading towards the *guesthouse* where Sakura, Karen and Touka live.

It's to tell them about the contents of the conversation with the President, including the fact that Fritz and Latia will accompany them.

– ... good grief, that President.

After listening to Hayato's story, Sakura muttered and clicked her tongue in dissatisfaction, then crossed one of her legs on the sofa.

– But, she just wants to go to Yamato because of Hayato-kun...

– ... did you say something?

Hayato sat in front of the sofa where a stuffed bear— as well as Sakura and

Karen are sitting and a low table is between them, and asks Sakura.

– Nope, it's nothing. ... I mean, if it's about interviews, I got used to them, so there's no need for the president to come..

Again, in a small voice, Sakura muttered.

– ... somehow, I have a bad feeling...

– A bad feeling?

– It's something else from the matter being discussed.

Misleading Hayato who listened so and asked again, Sakura continued.

– Because Karen-chan and I will accompany you to the interview diligently, Hayato-kun doesn't have to worry about anything.

– But, you also have work in Yamato, aren't you? Won't there be a possibility of having a schedule conflict or something?

– Regardin Karen, I don't think that's the case.

It was Karen who said so.

– To tell the truth, the interview request that came to Karen was from the same program as Nii-san.

– Oh, is that so?

– Since Karen and Nii-san have always been together, Karen should be indispensable for Nii-san's interview! That's why, I will always be together with my brother in Yamato .

– Hmm, I don't mind but...

Sakura sighed deeply.

– What do you mean?

– At any rate, she has decided to put another appointment. So, I guess "always" is kind of impossible?

– Ah.... That might be true...

Karen lost her strength and dropped her shoulders, and put her body deep into the back of the sofa.

– Whyyyy, I wanted to fully enjoy holidays at ease with Nii-san....

That's why it's fine to call Souffle a shrewd person.

– Let's try to oppose her in one way or another there.

Saying that, Sakura muttered in a small voice.

– No, we are going to oppose her.

– ... Emilia and the President will do as t they please with Hayato-kun.

– Sakura-san, did you say something?

– No, nothing.

Laughing with *Ahaha*, Sakura misleads her.

– Okay then, such are the impressions of the plan.

This is the end of Hayato's talk.

He gets up from the sofa to return to the dorm.

– Understood, I'm going to convey it to Souffle.

Following Sakura who also got up, Karen said.

– Good night, Nii-san.

Holding the hand of the stuffed bear that was placed on the sofa, she does a "bye bye" together with it.

Hayato also returned his goodbye to Karen and the bear.

– Yeah, good night.



(... Yamato Empire, the hometown of Kisaragi Hayato.... I am so looking forward to it desuwa...)

Despite trying to give up.

Still, she can't give up.

She herself isn't that effeminate.

Still, they are on a trip together——.

Moreover, being able to go to the home town of the person she likes, makes her super happy, even if there's half work——

Hoping for something, she breaks into a smile.

There was a person watching such Claire in the distance.

——It's Liza.

(Yamato Empire, an oriental country....)

She's only interested in the places she has never been to.

Besides, Claire is going there after all.

(... I've heard that the mood might get exciting during the trip)

Perhaps, the result of it will be interesting.

Having said that, she was unable to contain herself.

(I decided it, this is a good opportunity)

That is, she will use a method to go to Yamato together with Claire.

(I'm sure, this should go smoothly...)

With that in mind, Liza decided to change her strategy.



– Course, huh...

Karen collapsed over the desk at the same time the bell of the end of the class sounded.

– Third year is getting closer, you should think about the things to do after graduating from middle school.

Her homeroom teacher said that in the homeroom of today.

After that, prints were given to Karen and each of the students.

They have to write the desired course after graduating from middle school.

Most students will enter a high school of general education.

That was also the choice of Karen.

While enrolling in general education of senior high school, she will continue her singer activities.

Souffle, the president of the office, has been saying from a long time ago that learning various things at school is definitely useful for her future.

It's fine to devote herself as a singer after graduating from senior high school.

His older brother says that such direction is fine.

(... but...)

She wants to polish more the technique of the Hundred and create a stage like Sakura does.

Karen had such feeling as well.

If so, enrolling in the martial arts department— —.

Or without going to school, she'll continue studying songs and the Hundred, those two are the choices she has.

She heard that if the *live* in the moon is done next year, she will have to spend a lot of time preparing for it.

Anyway, it may not take much time to study.

—

Karen looked at Nakri Olfred, a Slayer girl who studies in the same classroom.

— What are you looking at, huh?

Nakri picked up her bag, calling out Karen as she was approaching her.

— The course of Nakri-chan is the martial arts department, right?

— ... huh? right.... The print just now. Yeah but, Krovahn and I have decided to skip third year and enter the martial arts department. We have to train to go to the moon, you see.

— ... eh? Does that mean that next year we are not going to be in the same class?

– If Karen comes to the martial arts department, the story will be different. Even you have to take training to go to the moon, isn't it? If you want to skip it, then why don't you do it?

– But, that's...

Karen turns her eyes to Rebecca and Aoi.

– Oh, I see. You haven't talk to Aoi and Rebecca yet. For the time being, the President told us to keep it a secret.

– Err, Nakri-chan!

Separating from the front of Karen, Nakri stopped as she was trying to leave the classroom. It was because she heard a loud voice that came to her.

The eyes of the classmates were focusing on Karen

– ... what do you want?

Nakri comes back while making an awkward face.

– I've always wanted to become friends with you, but isn't painful to be away from people?

– Na, nananana...*

***TN: Nani = what. nani fits better since she just mutters the first syllable.**

Nakri has her face red and,

– ... what are you talking about, huh? You were originally an enemy. I don't intend to meet any of you or anything like that, besides I have Krovahn and Nesat so I'm fine with it. See ya!

As she said so, Nakri once again separated from the front of Karen and rushed out of the classroom with a dash.

– Hey, Karen. What was that talk with Nakri?

That's what Rebecca said to her.

Aoi is also behind her.

– We were talking a bit about our courses. Now that I remember, Rebecca

and Aoi naturally will go to the general senior high school, right?

– *Fuh fuh fuh*, I'm not.

Rebecca grins and shows a smile, then hit her arm with a slap and said.

– I decided while I was watching the World Martial Arts Tournament. H'm also going to become a Slayer.

– Eh...? A Slayer...?

It's the first time Karen heard of that.

She was surprised by that much.

Rebecca continued, scratching her cheeks, and feeling embarrassed.

– The fighting appearance of your *aniki* and the senpais were so cool, I admire them. ... so, I took the aptitude test. I was told this since I was a child, but it seems that I can do it after all. Martial arts, I'm a Martial Arts type!

Rebecca started to do shadow boxing with her fists, throwing fists here and there.

– I started to go to the gym and I'm doing this every day!

She turns her feet.

The reflexes of Rebecca were nothing but outstanding.

Her previous fists and turning kicks were pretty sharp.

– Did Aoi know about this?

– I heard it yesterday. I had no idea until then...

– if you say it and keep saying it, won't that become uncool? So, by going regularly to the gym, I think I can say that I'm taking the first step as a Slayer.

– Rebecca is aiming to be a Slayer! If so, then I guess I will train you!

While saying that, Touka comes in from their side.

Apparently, it seems she came after the lessons of her classroom ended.

– Oh! Is that fine!?

Rebecca made her eyes shine.

– Yup. Although there are differences between sword and fist, the foundation of fighting is the same. Let's practice special training together!

– Awesome! If Touka-senpai sticks to my training, then I may be the best at the gym by the time spring break ends!

– Yeah, I will join your training so you become like that!

It's great that Touka can join the training of Rebecca, since now she has a new training partner other than Hayato and she's happy for that.

Touka's tension is quite high.

She does a firm handshake with Rebecca.

– Actually, Karen is supposed to return to Yamato with her older brother and the others...

– Eeh, Karen is also...

Following Rebecca, Aoi shows a despondent look.

– It's the long-awaited spring break, so I thought that we could gather together and have nice time...

– Oh, right.

Karen thought of something and raised her voice.

– What if you come to Yamato together with me?

Showign a grin and a smile, she clapped her hands in front of her chest.

– ... eh?

– We, to Yamato?

Due to the sudden proposal, they show a surprised expression.

– Yes, the President, Fritz and Latia are going with us, so if we go together in a transport aircraft, there will be no problem if two more people go. If the lodging place is the institution where Karen was born and raised, it will cost no money and the dormitory manager Ryōko-obasan should say that there's no problem.

– If that's the case then I'll definitely go! Aoi will also go!

– ... I want to ask my mother....

– Speaking of the President, if she goes too, then that’s absolutely *okay*. Besides, didn’t you say that you wanted to go at least once to the home town of your grandpa in Yamato?

– That’s true, but...

– Then, it’s decided! Try hard to convince your parents!

Rebecca hit Aoi’s shoulder with both arms.

Aoi clenched both fists tightly in one go.

As Rebecca said just seconds ago, Yamato was the home town of her grandfather of the side of her mother.

Resembling what she said once, she will go to Yamato with Karen’s older brother, Kisaragi Hayato.

(I want to go with him...)

Her secret love for Hayato is one of the reasons for the decision to go to Yamato.

– I hope everyone can go to Yamato together... hmm...?

With that said, the PDA of Karen made a *PIN* sound all of a sudden.

It’s an alert to inform her of the schedule.

– Ah, this is bad!

Karen took out the PDA from her pocket and raised a loud voice glancing at the clock.

– ... Karen, what’s the matter?

– Today is the day for the regular health checkup. I have to go to the hospital. I’m sorry, I’m returning first!

Karen, in a hurry, took her bag and began to run, then rushed out of the classroom leaving behind the three girls.



– I'm glad, Karen-chan. There are no abnormalities. There's no problem for you to go to Yamato.

– Is that so? I'm truly relieved.

Karen received the report from Mihal in the examination room, and showed a relieved smile.

– Which reminds me.

When a thing came into her mind, Karen piles up both hands in front of her chest and asks.

– I heard from Nii-san that Mihal can't return home this time, right?

– Unfortunately, I can't. But, please enjoy the trip to Yamato for me too. And, do your best at work, okay?

– Yes, I'll do it.



Karen, who left the examination room, was walking towards the stairs with a light foot.

The examinations since she started to stand up have never been abnormal.

The interval between examination and examination is gradually increasing.

There were things like if something has occurred, then she would have to return to the wheelchair again, but immediately after she thought that she has reached the point to stand up, that anxiety has disappeared.

Karen got the medical examination on the fourth floor.

All she has to do is to go downstairs to the first floor and go home.

– ... hmm....

Just before reaching the landing, Karen decided to stop her feet.

It was because she could see a girl at the opposite part of the corridor where no one else other than her was walking.

That is the same girl she saw at school a few days ago.

A girl with a blue rose hair ornament, jade-like eyes and blonde hair.

Over her white beautiful skin, that is, the figure of Liza Harvey, thorny ivies intertwined over and over again.

– Liza-san!

Karen starts to run, raising her voice.

Why is Liza-san here?

Why, she appears before <Karen> *me*?

The ghost that appears in the school is Liza-san?

Because there were lots of things she wants to ask.

Thereupon, Liza started to move.

She moved further into the corridor, floating all the way through the air.

Passing through the plaza with stairs, she goes further inside.

Liza turned at the corner there.

Likewise, Karen also turns.

At that moment— —.

– Nn...!?

Something touched her lips.

(... wha, these... are lips...!?)

At the same time Karen comprehends, her body stiffens.

(Why, why did Liza-san kiss me?)

It reminds her of the time of *Gardens Festa*.

Liza supported Karen's head with her small hands and kissed her forehead.

She might have tried to do it on her lips on the same way this time.

(But, why kissing me, this time...?)

At that time, it was to cure her legs that she couldn't move.

But she doesn't know why she's doing it now.

Even if she thinks about it, she won't get an answer.

(Also, these lips are soft and feel good...)

The inside of her head was turning white.

– Nn.... *kiss, mwah...*

The mixed saliva between the space of their lips is making noises.

Ba-dump Ba-dump Ba-dump

The sound of her heart is gradually getting bigger.

And her body is slowly getting hot...

(... wha, no way! Why, why am I feeling so good...!)

Puhaa, at the same time their lips separated.

– Uu... that was my first time...

Karen collapsed helplessly from her knees to the floor.

Looking at the appearance of such Karen, Liza scratches her cheeks in bewilderment.

– ... umm, I'm sorry...

She didn't expect that she would get so shocked like this.

It's really an apologetic attitude.

– Besides, this was the only way to do it.

– The only way to do it? What does that...?

Karen raised her face, and looked at the face of Liza.

There, Liza smiled and mislead her.

– Karen, be relieved. Because between girls doesn't count.

– Err, even if you tell me something like that...

– Well then, see you later.

– Eeeh...

Without answering Karen's question, Liza suddenly disappeared from the spot.

– What on earth, was that...?

Karen touches her lips with her fingertips.

The warmth and soft feeling of Liza's lips were still lingering there.

Chapter 4: Her highness the Princess

Interview Hot Spring

– No way, even Mei Mei is coming?

– Since I just spend time in Little Garden and I rarely go outside, I want to go to Yamato, so I thought that this was a good opportunity.

Shortly after entering spring break.

Inside the 《Little Garden Personal Airplane》 *WL-03* heading towards Yamato are Hayato, Emilia, Claire, Karen, Fritz, Latia, Touka, Sakura, Mei Mei— —

– Wow, this is Yamato—

– The home town of my grandfather...

Karen, who managed to be exempted from supplementary lessons together with Touka and her friends Aoi and Rebecca, were on board.

The land of Yamato is seen from the window.

The exclusive aircraft gradually lowers the altitude and land at the airport of the imperial capital.

– You girls, leave the guidance of the imperial capital to me.

That's what Souffle Clearrail said, she's the manager of Sakura and Karen, and who was waiting for them at the airport.

Hayato, Emilia, Claire, Karen, Sakura, Latia and Fritz will move to the Imperial Palace to carry out an audience with her Highness the Princess.

During that time, Aoi, Rebecca, Mei Mei and Touka headed to sightsee the imperial capital, accompanied by Souffle.

– Well then, see you later.

Karen tells her temporary parting to Rebecca and Aoi.

– Yes.

– Make sure to have fun!

Aoi and Rebecca, while waving their hands, disappeared into the car of Souffle.

– Well then, let's go.

Hayato called out Karen and got in a car that Claire and the others were in and started to move towards the Imperial Palace.

– Pff... it's more western style than what I imagined...

She probably didn't like the view that can be seen from the window of the car that's traveling on the highway.

Latia muttered with disappointment.

– ... what were you imagining, huh?

– I thought that it was almost the same as the townscape of Qin Empire.

Latia answers Fritz' question.

– Yamato is strongly influenced by Liberia, you know.

That's what Sakura said. She continues her explanation.

– It still has a unique culture, but I think that as a townscape, it's not very interesting.

– Hmm, I can see that...

Feeling disappointed, Latia showed a disappointed face.

– But, the Imperial Palace where we are going now is a Yamato-like building.

That's what Hayato said. In addition, Karen adds.

– That's right. Plus, there are still many old buildings remaining on the way to the institution where we lived, so I think you can look forward to it.

– Great, if that's so, then I'm really looking forward to it!

Latia made her eyes shine brilliantly.

Looking at her look, Hayato and Karen smiled.

Because it's the best to enjoy themselves in their country.

After going down the highway at high speed for a while.

The car passed through several checks, and reached the grounds of the Imperial Palace.

– Wow, it's just like Hayato said, it's a Yamato-like building. This will do!

The appearance and interior of the Imperial Palace were probably as expected.

Latia is super cheery.

On the other hand, Emilia has a dissatisfied facial expression.

She seems to be complaining about security being severe, like the physical examination at the entrance where they were banned to bring their PDAs and Hundred.

During the announced audience, there are many security guards lined up, the dominating atmosphere got filled with tension.

– I wonder if they really have to be so strict with their guests...

Claire said to Emilia, who muttered as if spitting out.

– Give up. This is the place where the Emperor lives. Besides, we are going to meet her Highness the Princess who is the daughter of the Emperor desuwayo.

– But, my father is also an Emperor, you know. Even when we had that meeting, we didn't receive this kind of treatment.

– ... that is because you are the princess of Britannia desuwayo.

Exasperated and sighing, Claire continued her words.

– And, speaking of the Emperor's family of Yamato, there are numerous emperors among them, which are special beings.

– ... special? Why?

Emilia tilts her head.

– There are many countries in this world——and the imperial line of Yamato it's the only one that continues with just one lineage without ending its dynasty for the last 1000 years——the unbroken imperial line desu.

– Yeah, that's what I heard from a story a long time ago——hmm...

Emilia grinned and smiled, noticing that the look of Claire was strange.

– Huh? The Prez is trembling? Are you nervous?

– Sh-, shut up desuwayo!

– Basically, her Highness the Princess of Yamato has the weight and authority, so that's why President-san is nervous.

That's what Fritz said.

– But, if I'm not mistaken, "her Highness the Princess—

She's still a child.

Hayato was about to say so.

– Be silent. It seems she is coming desuwayo.

And, Claire advices them.

Without a moment's delay, Hayato and the others kneel down on one knee and lowered their heads.

They were taught that that was the etiquette when meeting the royalty.

A door opens and a girl appears, surrounded by personnel of the palace.

– Is she her Highness the Princess? She looks quite young, but she indeed feels like the princess of Yamato...

Latia muttered, looking at the figure of the girl with long black hair dressed in yamatian* clothes.

*TN: It's: Japanese clothing / being dressed in a kimono, but I went for the first and since the place is Yamato (although it's just a change of name in the LN, it's better to keep it that way for the sake of consistence and I "invented" the demonym, because I couldn't find it on the internet.

What she's wearing is a national costume that is handed down in Yamato.

The hair ornaments that she's wearing are considerably old-fashioned, making her look like a shrine maiden.

– Latia, lower your head.

– Nggh!

Claire pushes down the head of Latia which she raised to see her Highness the Princess properly.

She's in front of Hayato and the others.

Standing a couple of meters ahead, her Highness the Princess opened her mouth.

– People of Little Garden, don't feel obliged. Raise your heads.

– We appreciate your words masuwa.

Hayato and the others also raised their heads, following Claire who raises her head while saying that.

Her Highness the Princess slowly approaches them and stops her feet in front of Claire.

– You* are Claire Harvey, the representative of Little Garden, yes?

***TN: The “you” she uses is written with お主 = onushi, an archaic way to refer one's equal or inferiors). This applies to everyone with whom she talks.**

– Ye-yes!

Claire answers with a high-pitched voice.

– ... Little Garden. Our country is truly indebted to you all and Warslan, where your elder brother is an ordinary*. And finally, my congratulations for the championship of the World Martial Arts Tournament.

***TN: Or it's a mistake from the raw or that's really the word used there. Maybe because he isn't a Slayer?**

– Th-, thank you very much.

– And—

The eyes of her Highness the Princess are directed towards Hayato.

... and at the same time.

– Oh! You are Kisaragi Hayato, yes!?

In a flash, the expression of her Highness the Princess bloomed like a flower. Until now, she had an adult-like tone, but it did a complete change. Even her type of voice changes to a girl.

– Gre-greetings...

Even she could throw a smile, it was extremely similar to a girl of her age.

To Hayato who falters with the sudden difference, her Highness the Princess approached him with a half run.

She grabs the right hand of Hayato with both hands and hold it tightly.

At that moment, the eyebrows of Emilia were lifted.



– Hold on, Emilia Hermit.

Claire, in a hurry, stops Emilia who tried to give a loud voice.

– What are you trying to do, the other party is her Highness the Princess desuwayo.

– Bu-, but...

Emilia shows a denying expression.

Her Highness the Princess continued grasping the hand of Hayato, then continues her words.

– I watched your great efforts in the World Martial Arts Tournament! Moreover, at the time of the *Third Attack*, I heard that the area around Motomatsu Base was saved from the evil hands of the Savage by you.

– Well.... That's, a little...

– As expected of you!

Her Highness the Princess bounces up and down while grasping his hand.

Following that, the arms of Hayato were also swaying up and down.

– What do you think, Kisaragi Hayato? Would you accept the position to command the Slayer forces of Yamato?

– Wha!?

Emilia stares in wonder to the sudden offer of her Highness the Princess.

The rest of the people are in the same condition.

Only Fritz was smiling and grinning, seeming that this would be interesting.

Without concerning for such a thing, her Highness the Princess pulled lightly the arm of Hayato.

– Kisaragi Hayato, I want to hear your answer properly.

Her Highness the Princess approached Hayato.

Her face is getting closer.

The distance is less than five centimeters.

– I am pleased with you. If it suits you, I don't mind letting you be the commanding officer of my imperial guards, hmm? You are that much of a person to me. What do you say, don't you think it is an excellent invitation?

– Well, I don't think I'm that much...

– What are you saying? Who else can protect the princess of Yamato if it is not you, the number one Slayer of Yamato at the present time? Or rather, should I make you mine as the imperial commander?

– “Make you mine”?

– It means that you may become my husband in the future. Not only your ability is perfect, your face is perfect too.

Her Highness the Princess tenders her right hand towards the face of Hayato and caresses his cheek.

Looking at that situation, the whole body of Emilia was trembling.

– ... Prez, I think I'm already at my limit.

Sakura follows her.

– I think I'm at my limit too.

– Karen too...

Even Karen is in a state where she has grown impatient.

In fact, Claire was also at her limit.

Now, what are you going to do, Princess-sama? It's what Fritz is transmitting with his eyes, looking like he wants to give his opinion if he was to take the offence but, this is not the case where he's worrying about them now.

(Since it has become to this, then it can't be helped masenwane!)

If other people cause problems, she should do something and manage it somehow.

Thinking so, Claire opened her mouth.

– Her Highness the Princess!

While shouting, Claire stands up.

– If you allow me, Kisaragi Hayato belongs to Little Garden at the moment, and although his nationality is yamatian, he is carrying an important role masu. Even if it's the imperial commander, it-it's impossible for us to hand him over masenwa!

Although she declared it firmly, she became embarrassed in the middle of that.

In a hurry, Claire kneels again and lowers her head.

– ... I am, I am sorry. I unconsciously went with it desuno...

– There's no need to apologize. Good job Prez!

Emilia raises her thumb towards the President.

Sakura and Karen also were nodding with a "yeah".

– ... I see, I am sorry.

Her Highness the Princess who was taken aback by the sudden shout of Claire, continued her words with an apologetic expression.

– It seems like I was getting carried away. Kisaragi Hayato. You must be bewildered too. My deepest apologies.

– No, that's a...

– ... One more thing, Emilia?

– What is it?

Emilia answers bluntly.

– I am sorry to make a move on your man. I just wanted to tease you.

– Your man you say!?

It was Sakura who stood up and raised her voice without thinking.

– Emilia-san, what is the meaning of that!?

Following her, Karen also stands up.

– ... hmm, what is it? Perhaps it is a misunderstanding of mine? Since Emilia was ignoring me, I thought of bantering with her and made my move on the person who is the man of Emilia...

– Jeez, Luli is really troublesome!

Emilia grabbed the body of Luli that was approaching her and moved her fist in a way that made it sunk into her head.

– Ow ow ow ow ow ow, stop! Emilia, stop!

Her Highness the Princess screams.

The guards are puzzled about what happened.

– Emilia Hermit, stop! The other party is her Highness the Princess desuwayo!

– It's fine, okay!? Luli deserves this much!

– ... Luli?

Sakura is showing a flabbergasted expression.

– That's the name of her Highness the Princess...correct?

Continuing, Karen said.

– What kind of relationship have you two?

Latia is the one who asked.

And then, Emilia begins to speak.

– Umm, the thing is...



It's a story when Emilia was leading a life of imprisonment in the outskirts of the Kingdom of Gudenburg.

– Haaa, there's nothing to do.

Lying on the bed, Emilia muttered.

– I want to see Hayato.

How many times has she muttered the name of the boy in this way—?

Well, probably thousands of times.

That was more than five years ago—.

The boy she met by chance in the city of Gudenburg.

It's the name of her first love, and the person with whom she got separated at the time of the *Second Attack*.

She hasn't been able to meet with him since that and she doesn't know where he is.

(But——)

Emilia caressed with the palm of one of her hands the scar of her chest from above the clothes.

Then, she turns her glance to the Hundred above the desk.

(If I become a Slayer, then I'll be able to meet again with Hayato someday)

There's no doubt that Hayato was becoming a Variant at that time too.

(I'm sure Hayato is living somewhere, like me, as a Variant——)

And, at that time.

TOC TOC, the window made a sound.

Don't tell me, she thought.

— Hayato!

She shouted, and opened the door.

However——.

— Huh?

There was a girl she has never seen before dressed in a foreign costume.

The girl, smiling, asks a question.

— Are you Emilia——Emilia Gudenburg?

— Who, who are you... and I'm not Emilia Gudenburg. I'm Emilia Hermit. Yes, Emilia Hermit, okay!?

While saying that, Emilia retreated and picked up the Hundred on the desk.

(It's okay, if anything happens, I can deal with it using the Hundred...)

Then, the girl expresses "heave-ho!" and climbs over the window frame,

entering the room.

– Fuu, it's so hard to ascend to the second floor.

– Wha, why are you arbitrarily going into the room of a person? And who on earth are you!?

– Eeh. You are right. I came from Yamato. And my name is Luli.

– ... eh, from Yamato?

With only that, Emilia's guard has gone loose.

Yamato is the hometown of Kisaragi Hayato.

She thinks that it might be possible to get information out of her.

– Well then. You are that person, right? The third princess of the Kingdom of Gudenburg, Emilia Gudenburg!

– w-, why do you, that...

– When I visited the palace with my father, I heard a rumor of you. So, I got interested in you. That is s because, it seemed intriguing.

– The palace, huh...?

The clothing she's wearing is surprisingly gorgeous.

Regardless of her appearance and behavior, her tone of voice sounds somewhat refined.

(In short, she's the daughter of one of the higher-us of the country of Yamato...)

Otherwise, she wouldn't be able to reach this place.

(... so that means, she isn't a dangerous character but...)

It seems the troublesomeness doesn't change.

– ... then, why are you doing this? Was I that interesting that you came just to see my face?

– No, that's not the reason. It's because I was being chased.

– Huh? You were being chased, by who?

- Some bad guys. So, I'm hiding here.
 - I'm calling the guards.
 - Wait a moment!
 - I'll ask them to take you to the palace.
 - Please pardon me, no more than that! I hate formal meetings with my father!
 - That means that, you didn't want to go to the meeting nor the ceremony and escaped to my place?
 - At the beginning, it was like that. But it's because it was interesting to come here.
 - I knew it, I'm calling the guards.
 - Please wait! Become friends with me!
 - Nope.
 - Why not?
 - I'm busy with a lot of things.
 - And why you are being confined in this place?
 - Because it's absolutely necessary to do special training of the Hundred.
- Saying so, Emilia took the Hundred that is on the desk.
- That's your Hundred?
- Luli stares in wonder, she was surprised from the bottom of her heart.
- You are a princess, yet you use a Hundred?
 - Hime and Oujo are totally unrelated to this, you know*? That's why I'm here, and I live the way I want. For that reason, The Hundred is essential——

***TN: Both mean princess (the former is specially used in western context). Another use for hime is: young lady of noble birth. I'm going to leave it as that.**

- Amusing!

– ... huh?

– I really like interesting people like you. Either way, become a friend of mine!

Luli clung to Emilia, frolicking like a dog, while showing a full smile.

– I'm telling you, get lost!

Emilia tries desperately to separate from her.

But, the girl doesn't give up.

– It's fine, don't you think? And I'm free. So, let's get along!

– —so, no matter how much I refused her, or tried to shut out her, Luli everyday slipped into my house to play games, read manga, steal and eat my sweets and meals, doing as she wanted for a whole week...

– It was pretty boring to go to the parties accompanying my father. So, as a refuge, it was more than precise.

– This person was a nuisance and I couldn't do anything...

Emilia said like complaining, after she took a big breath.

– Besides, she didn't fulfill the promise.

– In exchange for providing a place for me, I was supposed to investigate about that man, Kisaragi Hayato. I remember that I felt bad for her. But, I couldn't do anything. I was being in confinement for a while since I was exposed that I was running away... During that time, I also forgot the name of Kisaragi Hayato, and became unable to contact you.

– ... that's really terrible.

– A-ha-ha! Anyway, you remain the same, lively as always.

– That's true for Luli too.... I mean, I was surprised that Luli is her Highness the Princess. I thought that you were at best a selfish Ojou-sama.

– Hey, I'm not selfish. Even I have grown up a little. And once I'm 15, I will be involved in practice as a princess. The Genbuku*, like the men already did a thousand years ago—which means, becoming an adult. Not only my body, but also my mind will be the one of as an adult.

***TN: A male (only male mentioned, not female) coming of age ceremony. It's weird, I know.**

– ... It would really be cool if that was the case but...

– Her Highness the Princess, it's time.

It was one of her followers who raised their voice.

– So, so fast?

Luli gazed again at Emilia after turning a displeased expression towards her servants, and muttered.

– Meetings, festivals, lessons—My schedule is completely full, every single day. It's truly bothersome.... In comparison, Emilia who's a princess, like me, looks so carefree that I'm very jealous.

– ... what do you mean with that? I have many things on my side, you know. Besides, Luli is already an adult, right? Then work hard.

– ... fine, I understand. But, jealous are jealous.

After having her cheeks partly puffed up,

– Claire Harvey.

Luli stood before Claire and continued speaking.

– Please continue cooperating to protect this world with us from now on. I'm looking forward to working with you—

– Definitely, her Highness the Princess.

At the end of the visit, Luli and Claire shook hands.



– Certainly, we never knew that Emilia and her Highness the Princess were acquaintances.

At the same time as they got out from the break of the audience, Latia said surprised.

– ... I never thought that I'd be meeting again with her like this. Moreover, that she would have THAT position of "her Highness the Princess".

– But still, if she was your acquaintance, then say it earlier. We wouldn't have been surprised masenno.

– I wasn't sure about it. Whether Luli is really her Highness the Princess of Yamato or not. I thought that she was the same, but 5 years has passed since I met her, so her appearance was different. I felt that her personality was different too.... Even Prez is also an amazing person, calling the attention to her repeatedly, that she looked like a different person.

– As expected of President-san who flared up at against such terrific person.

Saying that, it was Fritz who laughed loudly.

Claire suddenly becomes bright, her face is red.

– S-stop it, Fritz Grantz. Moreover, Kirishima Sakura and Emilia Hermit, even you tried to flare up at against her Highness the Princes before me!

– But I was patient at the beginning.

– That's right, we endured it—

Emilia and Sakura smile, looking at each other.

– Then, because I stopped her— —

Looking at both figures, Claire was shaking her fists.

Shinonome Mika raises her voice.

– I have come to pick you up.

Following Mika's lead, they entered the hired car, and Hayato and company started moving.

The ones waiting at Motomatsu Base, the destination where they are heading to, are Tsudura Mirai, Kurumi Sango and Kirigakure Yumina.



– It's been a long time, everyone—

It was Tsudura Mirai, a Slayer belonging to Motomatsu Base, who welcomed Hayato and the others who arrived at the base.

She has her lazy way of speaking as usual, and is showing a relaxed smile.

– It’s been a long time desuwane, Mirai. Are your preparations completed already?

Those preparations are the preparations to head towards Little Garden.

Although they are still in middle school, Mirai and Sango—the ability of those two as Slayers is certified.

There’s a possibility that more Slayers will transfer from Little Garden to Lunaltia Base during and after spring, so it’s running low on talented people.

... the thing is, they will do it a year earlier than ordinary students, since they decided to enroll in the martial arts department of Little Garden by skipping grades.

Therefore, they are travelling with Claire, Hayato, Emilia and the others on the transport aircraft they used to return to Yamato, since it has been decided that they will enter Little Garden without delay, in advance of students of martial arts department to which another enrollment is decided.

– Yees, I’m perfectly prepared—

Answering, Mirai looked at Sango who’s hiding at her back.

– Sango has her preparations ready too, ri~ght?

–

Sango didn’t answer Mirai’s question.

She’s standing without moving, hidden on her back.

She thought that that was kind of mysterious.

– ... what’s the deal with her?

Latia asked Mirai.

– Ah, umm, the thi—

Mirai answers while scratching her cheek and showing a troubled expression.

– The truth is, there’s a certain rumor—. She would like to know if the rumor is true or not—.

– ... a certain rumor?

Latia knits her brows.

– What is that rumor desuno?

Continuing that, Claire asked.

– Err, Claire-han. That’s because, Claire-han is— —

– Wait, Mirai!

Sango shouts to stop Mirai who started talking.

– What’s wrong, Sango? Don’t you want to hear it yourself from Claire-han?

– But, that’s...

Thereupon, Emilia realized it.

– I got it. The conversation is about Sango-chan being worried whether the Prez will go to the moon or not, right?

– Yes, it’s exactly as Emilia-san just said—.

Next year, Claire will go to the moon— —.

Sango heard rumors that she will be heading to Lunaltia Base.

She was thinking that she could spend some precious time being close to Claire, but she’s worried that such a thing won’t be possible.

– ... so that’s the reason desuno.

Taking a breath and smiling with a puff, she approached the location of Sango.

– Kurumi Sango. I also wanted to spend time with you in Little Garden, but the situation continues to move day by day desu. I am really sorry. But...

She patted the head of Sango who’s hidden behind Mirai’s back.

– Although you won’t be enrolling as you would expect, but since you have a certain amount of ability, and it goes without saying that if you raise it during

the next two years, and until then, if you can reach your true strength, then there's no problem at all for you to come to Lunaltia Base desu.

– Ah...

– When you reach that level, then I will be summoning you to Lunaltia Base at once masuwayo.

– Claire-sama! I will do my best to be able to reach that level masuwa!

– Yes, that's the spirit desuwayo.

– I'm happy for you, Sango.

Mirai called her out.

– Yup.

Sango nodded with an unequalled smile.

– ... and, on that subject, I guess it would be better for you to give your greetings to them masenwane.

Claire turned her eyes to Rebecca and Aoi.

– Come to think of it, they didn't say their greetings properly in the World Martial Arts Tournament, right?

– Yep.

Mirai answers Emilia's question.

– I would be happy if you introduce them.

– In that case, I will introduce them masu.

Saying that, Claire began the introduction.

– They are students who go to the middle school of Little Garden desuwa. They are still in second year—nonetheless, she is Rebecca Martin, and is currently training her body at the gym, and is aiming at the martial arts department. Next year she will be entering the martial arts department as your kouhai. Please get along with her.

– Nice to meet you!

– Yup, nice to meet you too—

– Nice to meet you, desuwa.

Rebecca shook hands with Mirai then with Sango, in that order.

– ... and, who's the one there?

Mirai turns her eyes towards Aoi.

– Err, umm...

While showing a troubled expression, Aoi began to introduce herself.

– I am Umino Aoi.... And like Rebecca, I am in second year of middle school of Little Garden....

– Hee, Aoi-chan doesn't wish to be a Slayer?

– No, me, as a Slayer, I am not suitable for....

– “But, by becoming a student of the communication department, I will cooperate with the Slayers”, right!?

– He-, hey Rebecca!

– It's fine, you know. Isn't that your dream?

– Yes, it is,, but still...

Mirai smiled looking at the situation of the two girls.

– If that's true, then we'll be entrusting our backs to you in the future. At that time, we will be under your care.

Aoi grasped the hand that Mirai presented and answered.

– Of-of course!



Hayato and the others finished greeting the staff members of Motomatsu Base and those newly trainee Slayers belonging to that same base, then moved to the institution where Hayato and Karen spent many years in two multi-purpose vehicles.

Hayato, Emilia, Fritz, Latia and Claire boarded the first vehicle, Sakura, Karen,

Aoi, Rebecca, Touka and Mei Mei boarded the second vehicle.

They arrived at the institution in 30 minutes and a little.

– The institution where you spent a lot of time is relatively new, huh.

Latia muttered, as she looked at the institution from inside the vehicle.

What she means is that it has no vibe of Yamato at all.

– After I entered Little Garden, it was rebuilt with money of Warslan Company. Before that, it was very old.

– Oh, so something like that happened.

The vehicle stops.

The first one who got off was Hayato, since he was sitting at the window.

There, a man approaches.

It's a tall man with ruffled hair and was wearing a sleeveless undergarment.

– Oh! Hayato. You finally came.

– Shishō!

Hayato raised his voice.

Then Touka, who just got off from the vehicle behind, seems to have noticed that man—Kenzaki Ryūsei.

Touka rushed over to where Ryūsei is and asked him.

– Shishō, why are you here?

– I heard that you were coming back. So, I was waiting for you.

Almost at the very same time that Ryūsei answered.

The children jumped out from inside the institution.

– Hayato! Karen!

– Sakura-nee-chan is here too!

– It's been a while, everyone.

Surrounded by elementary school students, Sakura shows a smile.

– Yeah, it's been a while—

She said that, and patted the head of a 6-year-old girl that was clinging to her.

– Hey, Karen-nee-chan.

An 8-year-old boy asks Karen.

– ... hmm?

– Who, are they?

The boy's finger is directed to two girls standing right behind Karen.

– They are friends of Karen.

With a smile, Karen replied.

– Like she said.

And, as Rebecca was slapping, she introduced herself.

– I'm Rebecca Martin. I'm a classmate of Karen. Come on Aoi, you too—

– Ah, yes!

Prompted by Rebecca, Aoi began to introduce herself as well.

– I am Umino Aoi. And like Rebecca, I am a classmate of Karen-san.

– Umino Aoi? ... by any chance, are you the same as us, a person of Yamato!?
Where are you from?

The eyes of the boy shone sparkingly.

– Err, that's not it... my grandfather was born in Yamato, but I am from Liberia. This is the first time that I came to Yamato...

– Hee, is that so? ... then, Karen, who's the strange one over there?

– Strange one... ah...!

Judging from that, the boys and girls surrounded Mei Mei.

Some children are pulling the ears of Mei Mei as well as the tail that Mei Mei has on her back.

– Is this tail real?

– My ears!

– Hyu! St-stop! Mei Mei is someone important!

– Wawawa! Mei Mei-san, Are you okay!? Everyone, stop. Don't pull her tail and ears!

Karen, who saw that Mei Mei was about to cry, hurriedly run towards her, pulling away the boys and girls.

And then, Karen asked Mei Mei.

– ... Are you okay, Mei Mei-san?

– *Sniff*... I'm okay...

Despite saying that, Mei Mei was stroking her pulled ears.

While looking at her figure, Hayato smiles wryly.

– Haha, Mei Mei is fine, right...?

There, Fritz called him out.

– Hey, Hayato. Please introduce us to the children properly, 'kay?

– Ah, err...

While Hayato is introducing Fritz, Latia, Claire and Mei Mei,

– Oh my, this is quite lively, isn't it?

While saying that, a woman with a good physique came out from the institution.

She's the chief of the institution, Kizaki Ryōko.

She turned her eyes towards Claire and started her greetings.

– You are the representative of Little Garden, correct? I'm Kizaki Ryōko. I'm the manager of this dorm.

– As you said, I am the representative of Little Garden, Claire Harvey desuwa. We are indebted to Kisaragi Hayato.

– Indebted? Hayato-kun isn't causing any troubles, right?

– No troubles at all masenwayo. Kisaragi Hayato has performed beyond my

expectations masu.

– But, Hayato-kun went through that for a brief moment*.

TN: How I hate this verb: nukeru. This may be heavily wrong.

– I second to that. Which reminds me, even in the older days he—

– Shishō, please don't say unnecessary things!

Ryōko smiled happily, looking at Hayato quickly closing his mouth.

– Now then, should we lunch even if it's a little late? We were waiting for Hayato-kun and company to arrive so all the children are hungry.



The reception room of the institution is very large.

Still, there are so many people in there, that is filled to the brim.

They ate the food that took a lot of preparation in one gulp.

– Hayato-niichan. Your battles in the tournament were cool and incredible! Especially the semifinals! Defeating that big guy! What was his name, *Aburaramosomethinglikethat*!

– Ah, yeah... is that so...?

Regarding the boy who speaks with excitement, Hayato answered a little troubled while scratching his cheek.

He hasn't heard what happened to Gert after that battle.

Perhaps he—

Thinking all sort of things, he got depressed.

– Hey, Hayato.

She probably noticed that Hayato's expression became grim and dark.

Emilia, sitting next to him, poked the abdomen of Hayato with her elbow.

– Don't make such a face in front of the children.

– Ah, I'm sorry.

Hayato thinks that that's true.

So, he decided to pull himself together.

– Hayato, what's wrong?

Hayato answers the girl who heard that.

– It's nothing.

– ?

The girl cocked her head in puzzlement, she didn't understand it well.

There, Emilia gave him a helping hand.

– Other than that, I was amazing too, right? When I knocked out that Centaur-like thing!

Because of that, the interest of the children has moved to Emilia.

– Ah, yeah. You were amazing, amaziing!

– I know right? But I didn't do it seriously. If I did it seriously, then I'll be way more amazing.

– ... really?

– Yeah, it's true!

– ... saying that, when you have never done a serious effort masenka?

The tsukkomi of Claire that entered from her side aggravated her.

Emilia makes a counterargument, with enough force to make a vein stand up on her forehead.

– Hee, saying such kind of things. If so, would you win if I go all out?

She started to look towards Claire while saying that.

Claire bends herself forward, opposing her.

– I am wishing for it desuwayo. I am looking forward to the next campus martial arts competition masuwa.

The two of them went *humph*, and turned their face away.

Eventually, Hayato was the only one talking and couldn't eat much.

Still, the meal that everyone ate was very pleasant and delicious.

– Well then, Touka and I will take Shishō back home.

The party is at its peak.

The time is when the sun is already beginning to set.

Hayato was about to leave the institution to take the drunk and exhausted Ryūsei to his residence together with Touka.

– I forgot to say. Is it fine if only Emilia and Karen follow me?

– Eh, it's fine but...

Karen asked, after Emilia said that.

– Where are we going?

– That's right desuno, where are you going desuno?

Following them, Claire also raises a question.

– Well, umm...

In a troubled appearance, Hayato scratched his head.

– It's an order of the President. Answer.

The next one who said so is Latia.

She also seems to care about where Hayato and the others are going.

– And, if it's an interesting place, then take us with you.

Hayato decided to answer, since it can't be helped if they ask this much.

– It's a grave.

– A grave?

Latia knits her brows.

– Actually—

Hayato told Latia and Sakura that he went to the cemetery with Emilia in Gudenburg.

– At that time, when I came to Yamato, I promised to go visit their graves.

– ... oh, I'm sorry if I was being a nuisance.

Saying that in an apologetic way, Latia lowered her head.

– I'm sorry for prying into it too much.

– No, I don't think you were a nuisance or something like that.

That's what Karen said.

– I think both dad and mom will surely be pleased if everyone came to visit their graves. Because they liked lively people a lot.

Karen turns her eyes towards Hayato, and continues her words.

– Isn't that right, Nii-san?

Certainly, Karen is 100% right.

Their parents loved lively people.

– You are correct, so, let's go, everyone.

Saying that, Hayato turns his eyes towards Ryūsei.

– Shishō, what should we do? Can we make a short visit to the grave first?

– Hmm, yeah... I can walk. I can, walk...!

No matter how you look at him, he doesn't seem to be able to walk properly.

He's completely drunk and staggered.

Touka said, looking at him.

– Shinshishō. I will take Shishō back home. Please go visit the grave with everyone.

– ... I'm sorry.

– No, don't worry. Okay Shishō, let's go home.

– I'm fine. And I'm not drunk!

– No, you are drunk.

Touka carried Ryūsei on her back and left the institution first.

– We are also moving.

After walking for about 15 minutes, Hayato and company arrived at the cemetery.

Children of the institution also came, so the total is over 10 people.

Hayato and Karen stand in front of the gravestone, and sprayed water on it with a hishaku*.

***TN: Sort of a ladle but used for ceremonies.**

While looking the situation, Latia asked Fritz who's standing next to her.

– Say, Fritz.

– What is it? Do you want to go to the toilet?

– NO!

After denying it with all her might.

Latia closed her mouth with her hands, and asked with a small voice.

– ... what do you do when visiting a Yamato-style grave?

– Oh, you wanted to know that. But, even if you ask me, I don't know a thing.

– Well, it's understandable... Guess we are two.

– If that's the case, please leave it to Mei Mei!

– Ooh! You know it, Mei Mei!?

– Fufufu, even from this distance, Mei Mei can connect to the database of Little Garden... huh?

Mei Mei tilted her head in surprise.

– ... It's weird, but I can't connect properly degozaru...

– ... go, gozaru?

What the hell was that? Latia squinted.

Continuing, Fritz said.

– Hey hey, her way of talking is getting strange.

– Guys, what is happening desu?

She might have noticed the bafflement of Latia and Fritz.

Claire asked the question.

Then it was Latia who answered it.

– Mei Mei said that she would teach us what to do when visiting a grave of Yamato, but then her state got strange.

– ... strange, desuno?

Claire turns her eyes towards Mei Mei.

– I can't connect properly with Little Garden degozaruyo.

– ... “go, gozaru”, desu?

Claire frowns the inner part of her eyebrows.

Mei Mei doesn't seem to understand the reason of that.

– Mei Mei, isn't strange for you to say degozaru?

– ... hmm...

Certainly, it's strange.

The next one who joined the conversation was Emilia.

– What happened?

– Mei Mei's way of talking is strange desu.

– Strange? In what way?

Emilia points her eyes to Mei Mei.

She looks exactly the same.

– Mei Mei doesn't understand degozaruyo. What do you mean degozaru?

– Oh, yeah. It's indeed strange.

Emilia, who heard the way Mei Mei talks, was immediately convinced.

– Eeeeh!? Is that so degozaru? In what way is Mei Mei strange degozaruka～!?

– Wait a moment, I'll confirm it.

Saying that, Emilia took out the PDA from her pocket and watched the screen at the same time she muttered.

– She isn't getting a good reception. Then maybe, that means that...

– Have you suddenly understood something masuno?

– Come here a little, Prez...

Emilia begins to walk, grabbing the sleeve of the uniform of Claire.

– Wa-wait... what are you...

– It's fine, come with me.

Emilia pulled Claire into the forest.

– What are you doing desuno?

Claire asks at the same time she stops her feet.

– It's about Mei Mei, but I thought it would be better to not let the children listen directly.

– I see, that was your intention desuno.

They didn't tell the children that she is an android.

Claire agrees that that's for the best.

– Err, the Prez knows that the main body of Mei Mei is in Little Garden and that the body itself is kind of a terminal, right?

– ... yes. Of course, desuwa. The human brain is a complex thing. So, not only the processing power, but if you also want to recreate the capacity of the memory on a computer, then those things won't fit into the body of Mei Mei. I learned that from Charlotte masu.

That's the reason why, in Mei Mei's body, processing, calculations and storage of memory are kept to a minimum, and the rest is done in the computer of Little Garden.

– Yup, that may be the reason why the communication state is bad and the language data is in disorder. Probably, when she was pulled by the kids, I think

the antennas weakened...

– Ah...

Claire remembered the thing just before entering the institution.

Children were pulling the ears and tail of Mei Mei, which are her antennas.

It looked like they are in a bad shape.

– In other words, not only is this place, but also what the children did the ones at fault desuka?

– While it may be true, I don't mean that they did it with malice. That's why I avoided to talk of this in front of them.

– ... I guess you are right desu. Then, what will we do masuno?

– If I fix her while listening to Charlotte, I guess I can do it, but to what extent will I be able to do it...? But hey, I don't think there's a problem if her language is a little strange or her memory is in chaos. I find her cute that way. "Gozaru".

Enjoying that, Emilia smiled.

– Good grief, you are...

Exasperated, Claire sighed.

– For now, let's consult Charlotte later.

– Understood mashitawa.

– Well then, let's return.

Emilia and Claire returned to Hayato and the others.

– ... so, this is visiting a grave of Yamato, but...

Just when Sakura was teaching everyone about visiting a grave of Yamato.

Claire and Emilia decided to blend with them.

In front of her own chest, *Clap Clap*, Sakura clapped twice with her hands.

– Close your eyes, then clap with your hands like these, then bow, and you are ready to do your prayers.

– If I remember correctly, you close your eyes, and pray in silence, correct?

– Indeed. Umino-san sure knows about this.

– ... ah, yes. I was taught by the time I visited the grave of my grandfather.

– I see. Then, shall we start our prayers? Can we, Hayato-kun?

– Yes—

Everyone closes their eyes, standing around Hayato in front of the gravestone, and piled up simultaneously their hands after 2 claps.

After a minute of praying in silence has passed, Hayato opened his mouth.

– You can open your eyes.

Along with that voice, all of them raise their heads.

– Everyone, thank you very much.

Hayato said so.

Continuing, Karen said.

– I'm sure that mom and dad are pleased in heaven.

– Okay then, shall we go back?

Following Hayato's voice, they walked towards the institution.

Hayato, who was the last to walk, looked back once and talked to the gravestone from the bottom of his heart.

It's been around half a year since I came here before.

There were so many things that I couldn't tell due to the little time that I had.

After this, a lot of things are going to happen.

Maybe I will be able to go to the moon with Karen....

Still, I feel like I can overcome everything if I'm with everyone.

Father and mother, I will live my life to the fullest, so please continue watching over us.

Please take care of us.

... and, when he thought that he has finished visiting the graves of his parents as planned,

(Impossible, to guess that I would end up coming here again...)

He never thought that the start of the recording would begin from the gravesite of his parents the next day.

It seems they want to reproduce the scene where he tells his father and mother that he's going to become a Slayer and will go to Little Garden and record it with a VTR*.

***TN: Video tape recorder.**

– I wonder if they went a bit too far.

Sakura, who's accompanying him in the shooting, murmurs.

– But, Kisaragi Hayato said that he actually did something like this mashitawayo.

That's what Claire said.

– That may be true but still... and...

Sakura stared at the girl with a sidelong glance.

– Why are you the reporter of the program?

– Because this was a work request that came to me. And that's not the only reason. I wanted to see Kisaragi-san after a long time, so I came all the way to Yamato. Kisaragi-san, I'm happy that I can see you again like this .

Towards Hayato who finished shooting, Carol waved her hands in a big way.

Looking at her, Sakura distorted her expression.

– Agh, what's with that attitude. It's disgusting.

– Aren't you like that when you are on the stage? Or perhaps I should say, you are in the way of the shooting, so why don't you go somewhere else?

Carol moved her hands towards Sakura, as if she was shooing a fly.

However, Sakura didn't back down.

– In your dreams. I'm going to watch properly to make sure you don't do anything funny.

– If so, then be quiet.

Carol left those words with Sakura, then got closer to Hayato with a small trot.

– Okay then, Kisaragi-san. Let's return to the institution .

– Eh, ah... wait...!

Carol suddenly came even more closer and took his arm, leaving Hayato perplexed.

– Come on, the next shooting is in the institution, isn't it?

– U, umm...

His arm is buried between her big breasts.

Almost enough for him to grasp the softness of those dreamlike breasts.

– Hey, I'm telling you to stop!

Sakura tries to get in between Hayato and Carol to separate them from each other.

– Yeah! Separate yourself from Hayato now!

Emilia also joins there, and tries to separate Carol and Sakura from Hayato.

– Hey, Emilia! Sakura and Carol-san too, stop!

– U, umm...

Karen is confused as to what happened, looking at her older brother being pulled by three people.

Next to her is Claire and,

– Good grief...

She sighed in a deep and big way.

After that, and like Carol was saying, the shooting moved to the institution, to shoot a scene with the children that met him.

They are doing it to respond to the demand of the program side that they want a VTR of the children welcoming Kisaragi Hayato who became a Slayer and

came back as a hero.

Once that was over, the next wasn't Hayato's, but Karen's interview.

Of course, the interviewer was Carol.

Karen continued talking to the camera about the reason why Hayato decided to follow the path of the Slayer and when she participated in the event of Warslan Company.

— Actually, Karen has admired the Slayers-san. So, saying that I should go to the event of Warslan, Nii-san invited me... Karen also said that she wanted to touch the Hundred. At that time, Karen almost had a reaction but— —

It was different for Hayato.

At the same time he touched the Hundred, it changed to a strange, sword-like shape.

— Karen thought at that time! Nii-san can definitely become an amazing Slayer!

— Really...?

The Slayers who were listening from the side of the interview, murmured so while smiling wryly.

(Come to think of it, at that time, I was thinking about a lot of things...)

Hayato remembers about what happened a year and a half ago.

It was just before touching the Hundred placed in front of him.

What if the Hundred reacts?

If he could become a Slayer, he could earn a lot of money and he might be able to give her little sister Karen a good treatment.

He may be able to let everyone living at the institution have a good life, and maybe, his lost memories— —

He may get to know who's the girl that appears in **that dream**.

Everything came true.

The Hundred granted his wishes.

After that, they will have an interview with Ryōko, the institution chief.

The purpose was to talk about the childhood of Hayato.

Hayato's beats faster, as to what they are going to talk about him.

– If it's about Hayato's childhood, then I can tell some things too.

While saying so, a tall man appeared on the spot.

His hair wasn't ruffled as usual, instead he chose a proper hairstyle, and he wasn't wearing a sleeveless undergarment, but a suit, and Carol asked that man.

– And you are?

– Kenzaki Ryūsei. The master of Kisaragi Hayato.

Gently pulling his hair upwards, Ryūsei gazed at the camera, and the local camera staff began to rustle.

– Kenzaki?

– Does that mean, that he may be...

– He's the rumored remarkable swordsman of a long time ago?

– No way, he's that guy?

Those were the responses he expected.

Looking at that situation, Ryūsei opened his mouth with a grin.

– It's exactly as you are thinking. I, Kenzaki Ryūsei, along with my older brother, Kenzaki Hokuto, fought against the Savage to protect Yamato before the hundred arms—the Hundred were developed—

– Shishō, what are you doing!?

Flustering, Hayato headed towards Ryūsei, grabbing the sleeve of his suit from behind, and pulling him away from the camera.

– What, you say? It's to answer the interview. It's the long-awaited TV, you know? For that much, I have to appeal to them.

Making his teeth shine, Ryūsei continues.

– By the way, I’m single. I don’t have a girlfriend now. I’m taking applications with high praise.

– Appeal you say, yeah right. At least recruit some students!

– Be quiet, this is way more important!

– ... hmm, won’t this be eliminated?

Emilia, who was looking at Ryūsei and Hayato arguing back and forth in front of the camera from a little distant place, asked Sakura standing next to her.

– Probably.

Next to Sakura who answered so, Touka was sighing like Hayato.

– I tried to stop him, but he didn’t listen a single word...

– Ahaha, Touka-chan had it hard too.

– ... yeah.

She wondered why they were embarrassed about the behavior of their Shishō.

The face of Touka who received the words of Emilia was dyed in deep red.

Even though there was an intrusion disturbance in the middle of it, the interview with Ryōko ended, and the most interesting part of the shooting was approaching.

The last shooting today is the interview of Carol with Hayato.

Two chairs facing each other with the institution as the background where Hayato spent many years.

Hayato and Carol sit, facing each other.

– ——Kisaragi-san, what is like to be in your home town after a long time?

That’s the first question.

– Umm, it hasn’t been really a long time ago, but when I do it like this, whenever I come back to Yamato without problems, I feel relieved somehow.

Continuing with the next question.

— — — Hereafter, it is considered that mankind will advance to the moon. It is said that the Slayers will take the initiative to head to the moon, and in that aspect, are there any plans for Kisaragi-san to go to the moon?

— Err, Karen is... no, my little sister and Sakura to the moon and... err, my little sister has possibilities to do a live concert with Kirishima Sakura-san at the moon, so at that time I thought of going there as a bodyguard, but it doesn't mean that I will be staying permanently there.... For now, I thought and decided to do my duties here, on the Earth.

— — — Kisaragi-san wants to stay on the Earth rather than on the moon?

— Err, well... ye-yes. I was born and raised on the Earth, so that makes me feel relieved. That's why I think that I will definitely go when my strength has become a necessity in the moon in order to protect the Earth. The ones who have to use their strength for the sake of those who don't have it. Noblesse Oblige is the spirit of Little Garden.

— And to finish— — what does it mean being a Slayer to Kisaragi-san?

— Eh.... Wait a moment...

All the questions so far have been heard beforehand.

But that doesn't apply to the last question.

Carol is gazing at Hayato with a look full of expectations.

Claire, who's looking at the interview from a distant place is the same.

It seemed that she was looking forward to what would be the answer of Hayato.

— Hmm, how should I answer this...?)

10 seconds.

20 seconds.

30 seconds.

His hesitation ended, Hayato finally arrived at an answer.

— ... Like everyone, you work hard for the sake of someone, I guess...?

– Thank you very much for your magnificent answers. And thank you very much for today.

Carol stands up and asks Hayato to shake hands.

Hayato accepted, the shooting of today is over.

– We will have an interview of Little Garden at a later date.

Hayato dropped his shoulders in astonishment when he saw that the producer of the program said that to Claire.

– This will continue in Little Garden...?

He unintentionally muttered. There, Claire came to him.

– He was just saying that they will be shooting a little of practice scenes mashitawayo. Anyway, thanks for your hard work today, Kisaragi Hayato.

– Thank you, President.

Ryōko joins them.

– Now that it has finished, won't you have dinner? I made some for the people of the shooting too, so come and eat.

– Oh! Finally, some food!

It was Latia who gave a happy voice.

– And then, after that, the *thing* that we have been waiting for so long!

After dinner.

As Latia said, the time they have been waiting for came.

– Okay, we're ready. Let's go!

It was no other than Latia who took the initiative to walk.

Fritz said amazed, looking at her.

– You really are in high spirits, huh.

– But of course. For me, this is the main event of Yamato!

In the hands of Latia who looked back and answered, handbags with towels and changing clothes were hanging. Besides, she was wearing a yukata.

Not only Latia, but also the boys and girls.

It's something that Ryōko had prepared.

After a fifteen-minute walk from the institution.

The hot spring is in the middle of the mountain, that was the place where Hayato and the others were heading now.

Emilia, Hayato, Sakura, Karen, Fritz, Latia, Mei Mei, Claire, Rebecca, Aoi — — and the children of the institution. In addition to them, Carol is also with them. The group exceeds 10 people.

- A real hot spring. I'm really looking forward to it!
- Kisaragi Hayato. Is it true that it makes your skin beautiful desuno?
- Well, I heard that it has that kind of effect but...
- If so, then I am truly looking forward to it desune.
- Mei Mei is also super looking forward to it degozarimasuyo!

Unlike Claire and Mei Mei who have a happy smile, the expression of Sakura is serious and stern.

That's because of a girl walking next to her, that girl is Carol.

- Why even you are here, huh...?

Sakura said, staring at her with half-closed eyes.

- Because I also wanted to enter a hot spring. I'm lodging in the hotel of Motomatsu today, so I have plenty of time. Besides— —

Carol showed a grin and a smile on her face, then pushed up with one hand her own chest and said.

- I want to make Kisaragi-kun go *DOKI DOKI* by seeing my wet figure .
- Kuh, again with that.... And I thought you were a nice person in Calbrera Island...

– That time was that time. It was a critical situation of mankind. But, the fight of a woman is different, right?

- Sakura-san, Carol-san, about what matter are you talking about?

– No, it's nothing, Karen-chan.

– ?

Walking behind Sakura, Aoi murmured.

– *Sniff*.... Everyone has an excellent figure, my chance of winning are...

– You too Aoi, what are you talking about?

– Noo, it's nothing!

Aoi dodged Rebecca and then saw Hayato with a sidelong glance.

Emilia is standing next to him.

It seems she's having a conversation with Hayato.

(Hayato-san is very popular...)

And again, Aoi thinks.

No matter how you look at it, there are too many enemies.

In this situation, she can't do anything.

– Haa...

Aoi took a small breath.

With such various things, they reached the hot spring in the mountain.



– Oh!

As she saw a shop near the bath house, Latia gave a delightful voice.

– This is *that*. The rumor that I heard of: fruit milk! I heard that it's etiquette of Yamato to drink this on hot springs! I suppose that I'm drinking it immediately!

– Please wait, Latia-san!

Touka grabbed with all her strength the clothes of Latia who tried to run towards the shop, stopping her.

– What’s the problem, Touka? Is something wrong?

– The thing is, you can’t drink it right now. It’s something you drink after taking a bath!

– Oh, is that so!? I guess I didn’t go that far in my studies! Then, let’s do it after we leave the hot spring!

– ... That reminds me, is it fine for Mei Mei to enter the hot spring?

Hayato asked, her figure is the one of a person, but in reality she’s an android. Besides, the condition of her communication is bad now.

That means, she’s out-of-order,

– Yes, it’s fine for Mei Mei desuyo. I won’t rust or anything like that degozarudesukara.

Listening the reply of Mei Mei, Hayato thinks.

– Okaay..... but, I have a bad feeling....

– I’m not really sure if it’s fine for her in this situation, so I’ll ask Charo just in case.

Emilia took out the PDA.

– Hmm, it’s out of range.

– ... maybe one of the reasons is that she’s way worse than before.

Maybe it’s because she came out with that “degozarudesukara”.

– Hmm, what do we do...?

– If it’s outside, then maybe it will connect?

Hayato answers Emilia.

– Please wait a moment. I’ll go search and see if it connects.

Emilia came outside and returned in three minutes or so.

– Since it’s only the exterior, there’s no problem to get in the bath. She was saying that if we feel anything strange, then we have to send her an emergency signal.

– Got it.

They feel relieved that Charlotte says so.

– Okay then, Hayato. See you later.

– I'm looking forward to seeing you after the bath .

Carol murmurs at Hayato's ear.

– So, you are like that again...

– Ow ow ow ow, it hurts!

Sakura pulled Carol's ear and took her to the dressing room.

– Now, shall we go too?

It's Hayato who said so.

But Fritz didn't move.

Standing side-by-side, he shows a grin and a smile.

– What is it?

– The girls are going to enter the hot spring. That means, there's only one thing to do, don't you think?

Fritz winks and raised his thumb.

The children did the same thing towards Hayato.

– ... what?

Hayato couldn't do anything but stare in puzzlement.



– ... why are we doing this...

Hayato wasn't going to the men's dressing room, but outside the building.

Moreover, they were on the opposite side of the hot spring.

There's a big partitioning screen made of wood in front of them, and the women's bath is beyond that.

(Really, why did he decide to do something like this?)

It's all due to Fritz.

After the girls disappeared in the changing room.

– Girls are entering the hot spring. So, there's only one thing to do.

Fritz winked, raised his thumb and said so.

– Heee...?

Fritz continued, while Hayato was staring in puzzlement.

– What is that reaction, huh? You know, right? It's peeping. When it comes to Yamato's open-air baths, then it's settled that you have to peep at them.

– Such a thing, saying something like fruit milk...

– It's fine, don't worry. It's a little prank to the heart of hers.

– Yeah yeah.

– Let's do it, niichan!

The children of the institution are also in high spirits.

– Whether I like it or not...

– What is it? Maybe you don't want the naked body of Emilia to be seen by another man?

– What are you talking about...!?

Hayato's face turns bright red very fast.

Not to mention because he was teasing him, but also the memory of the naked Emilia that he has seen so far was brought back in one go.

– Hahaha, take it easy. I won't look at Emilia. I want to see the Prez——and the rest of course. The beautiful breasts of the divas-san——ah, don't worry, I won't look at your little sister.

– Just you wait and see when Latia...

Hayato said, then became sulky while turning his face away.

Then, Fritz says “yareyare!” and points the inner part of both palms to the

sky.

– You really don't understand, huh? What happens if you look at such thin body? As for that, we will climb the tree over there and peek inside!

– Yeah!

– Let's go, niichan!

– Are you serious...?

Taking the lead, Fritz began to climb the tree.

The tree's trunk is thick and its height is quite high.

If they climb up to the half of it, it will be possible for them to look inside the women's bath.

– Come on, come faster you guys. You too, Hayato.

Fritz stretched his hand to the boys and began to pull them up on the tree.

– Umm...

What should he do?

Hayato is the only one who's not in high spirits, so it's unlikely that he can stop them.

One boy, then another boy was pulled up by Fritz, the dazed Hayato could only look up at them.



– Good grief...

There was a girl watching the situation a little away from the tree where Fritz and the others were climbing.

It's a girl who has blonde hair, blue eyes and many thorny ivies coiled around her body.

She's Liza Harvey.

(What are those guys trying to do...?)

Exasperated, Liza sighed.

It's humiliating as a woman to be seen naked by a man that one doesn't like.

Liza knows that feeling, even for her older sister Claire should be the same....

(If it was only Kisaragi Hayato, then that won't be a problem but...)

The other guy is in the way.

(If that's the case——)

Liza took the initiative and turned her palm towards the tree Fritz was climbing up.

She's thinking about shooting *energy* bullets to drop them from the tree.

And then, Liza shoot *energy*

– ... ah...

Oops! Liza thought.

It was because she couldn't control the force skillfully.

Liza was only planning to shake the tree by firing a light sphere from the palm of her hand to the trunk.

However, it ended up making a big hole in the trunk of the tree.

Because of that, the tree can't keep the balance.

– ...there's nothing I can do...

She thinks so, she can't think of a method immediately.

That's the same for Fritz who's on the tree.

Rather than that, and for just a moment, understanding didn't reach him.

– Wha-, what on earth is this?

Fritz can't do anything but mutter...

– Niichan!

– Uooo!

The trembling tree is beginning to fall towards the hot spring.

– Wh-, what should I do, here...?

Overcome with surprise, the only thing that Hayato can do is watch the situation....

– Uwaaaaaaaah!

Following Fritz, the children scream.

The tree blows down the partitioning screen in front of his eyes and fell into the hot spring with Fritz and the children.



A few minutes before Hayato and the others started peeping.

Emilia finished changing clothes and was in front of the hot spring.

– Uoooooooo, it's a hot spring! Moreover, it's many times wider than the bath in the dormitory, and impure* too!

***TN: I don't get the "impure" in this sentence.**

Looking at the hot spring, it was Latia who gave a loud voice.

– The steam is amazing...

The worried Karen asked Aoi who murmured.

– Aoi-chan, are your glasses okay?

– Yes. They aren't foggy anymore.

Aoi answers the question of Karen.

– Now, without delay, I'm going to enter!

– Me too!

Latia and Rebecca are running towards the bathtub made of stone.

Claire, rushing, called their attention.

– You two, clean your body properly desuwayo. Understood masuwane?

– I heard that the style of the hot springs of Yamato is to submerge in hot water after soaking yourself, So, there's no problem!

As she answered so, Latia scooped hot water with a bucket she was holding in her hands, pouring it over her head and jumped into the bathtub.

Like her, Rebecca also pours hot water and jumps into the bathtub.

– Okay then, I should do the same.

– Me too.

Emilia and Touka washed themselves and entered the bathtub.

Claire, as she saw that, sighed as if she was exasperated.

– Good grief, you are.... I will enter after washing my body properly.

– I'll do the same.

– Me too.

Sakura said after showing her consent with Karen.

– Latia is talking about old customs. Now you usually wash yourself.

– If-, if so, then I'll also wash.

– I will do it too—

– Me* too.

***TN: Mei Mei used “washi” which is a male I. Mainly used by elders.**

Aoi and Mei Mei.

Finally, Carol also showed her consent.

Thus, in the washroom, Claire, Karen, Sakura, Aoi, Mei Mei and Carol have begun to wash their bodies.

Four people, including Latia, had already enjoyed the hot spring.

– The hot spring feels so good! The feeling is the best!

Latia put her back on the rock and spreads both arms wide.

Being in a complete relaxed mode, she puts the towel on her head.

Emilia submerged in the hot water in the same way as her, and was also beside her.

– It does really feel good, don't you agree? Now that both genders are separated properly, I'm glad this wasn't a mixed bath.

– ... mixed bath? What's that mixed bath? That's where men and women enter together?

– That's right.

Looking towards Latia, Emilia answers.

– It seems that this hot spring turns into a mixed bath at night or something, so both men and women enter together. When I came to Yamato before, at that time I met them by chance...

– Eh, was Emilia-san here also at that time?

– Ah!

This is bad, Emilia thought.

Because that story was only a secret between Hayato and her.

However, she couldn't do anything anymore.

– Wait a moment, that means that you and Hayato-kun, fu, fufufu, decided to come to a mixed bath?

– What did you say!?

Following that, Claire, who was behind Sakura, raised her voice.

Looking backwards at her shape that was submerged in hot water, Claire approaches Emilia.

– Explain yourself, Emilia Hermit.

– That's right! Explain yourself, Emilia-san!

– What does that mean!?

– That's right, give us an explanation!

Not only Claire.

But even Karen, Sakura and Carol are urging Emilia.

– We-well...

Emilia, who looked at the four people including Claire in the front, kept her buttocks in the hot spring and moved backwards.

– Hey, don't run away!

– That's right desuwa! Since you feel guilty, you are running away desuwayo!

The four of them go and follow her, coming into the hot spring.

What what? Rebecca who was swimming in the hot spring, and Touka who was relaxing, turned their eyes towards Emilia and the other girls.

Aoi thinks “what's happening with them?”, while standing at the edge of the hot spring, as Emilia continues her panicking.

– Eh, err... I came to a hot spring, but neither I nor Hayato knew that it was a mixed bath. With that, and by coincidence, we met in the hot spring— —

As a result ,Emilia, who had been chased to the opposite edge, began to make excuses while becoming desperate.

And, almost at the same time.

– ... !

The first one was Emilia.

Following her, Claire, Sakura, Karen and Latia showed a reaction.

– Everyone, is something wrong?

Aoi doesn't seem to feel anything.

– ?

Mei Mei also tilts her head.

– Sakura-san...

– Yes, I felt a strong *energy*.

– ... wha, look at that!

The girls gathered their line of sight to where Latia indicated with her fingers.

– Wha-, that's...!

First of all, it was Claire who gave a loud voice.

Everyone who was in that place caught the scream, noticing that the tree is beginning to fall to the hot spring.

– Wh-, what on earth is happening degozarimasukaa!?

Following Mei Mei who raised her voice, Carol also did the same.

– No way, this was the attack of a Savage...?

– Everyone, get down on the spot!

Shouting, Sakura looked towards Karen.

– Karen-chan, can you protect everyone!?

– Yes!

Karen took the pendant on her chest and threw it into the sky.

– <Sacred Deployment> *HUNDRED ON!*

When shouting, the Hundred attached to the pendant transforms into a single sacred card.

Karen orders it.

– Card-san, please protect everyone!

The mark on the center changes to a shield, and the brightness of the sacred card increases.

It became a shield and guarded the guests who were in the hot spring from the falling tree.

– .. *cough*, *cough, thanks to Karen-chan, we are saved somehow.

Beyond the cloud of dust that covers the visibility.

Sakura muttered, looking at the big tree that collapsed outside Karen's shield.

– Err, I didn't know that something bad was happening, so it's thanks to President-san.

Karen answers, as she takes a breath feeling relieved.

Following her, it was Emilia who raised her voice.

– – What the, why a tree?

Emilia tried to check the situation of the surroundings and found a figure of a man standing up while coughing at the base of the fallen tree and raised her voice.

– Hayato!

– What did you say!?

It was Claire who shouted.

– Nii-san, what on earth are you doing in this place?

Asks Karen.

The rest of the girls also glared at Hayato while hiding their bodies with a towel.

– E, err, the thing is...

What on earth happened?

He doesn't understand it well.

There, Fritz raised his body.

– Ow ow ow... what the hell, happened... ah...

Fritz mutters, checking the current situation.

– Hey! It seems like we came from hell to heaven. Even though I say so, we can't see because of the steam...

– Kisaragi Hayato! And Fritz Grantz. What on earth do you think you are doing!?

Claire shouted, her shoulders are trembling.

– That's right, Hayato, what's the meaning of this!?

Emilia's line of sight was directed at the fallen tree.

– Maybe Hayato-kun was trying to look? If you want to see my naked body so

much, then I'll show it to you!

– Oh, it's fine if you see me too!

Carol said, following Sakura.

– What? What are you saying? Hayato decided to look at my nakedness! Am I right, Hayato!?

– No, it was Fritz who tried to peep in the first place...

– Stupid and lewd Fritz!

– Uguah!

– Hey, Fritz... you okay?

Fritz was splendidly hit by the bucket that Latia threw, his feet slipped, falling on his back.

In this regard, he ended up hitting his head on the floor, losing completely his consciousness.

Then, Emilia and the girls came close to him.

Although her lower body is hidden from her chest with a towel, the stimulation is too strong.

The figures of the other girls are too stimulating too.

The face of Hayato turns deep red, and closed his eyes.

There, a voice called him out.

It belongs to Claire.

– For occasions like this, it's why I need to be carrying the Hundred close to me desuwa

While Claire hides her chest, she takes the Hundred hanging on her neck with her free hand, and grasped it tightly.

– *HUNDRED ON!*

– ... huh?

Claire transforms the Hundred into Buster Cannon, turning its muzzle towards

Hayato.

Emilia gave a loud voice, looking at her.

– Wait, don't tell me you are going to shoot at him!?

– I'm not going to hit him masenwa!

Buster Canon sheds light, it was aiming at the ground ahead.

A big hole opens, a cloud of dust soars.

It looks like Claire did it to cover his eyes.

– With this, Kisaragi Hayato will not be able to see our naked bodies. Let's get out of the hot spring now! Do it desuwane!



– I can't believe it, why it ended up becoming such a <situation> thing...?

Looking troubled, Liza murmured.

By nature, the control of the strength isn't one of her strong points.

On top of that, this body is nothing else but a mass of *energy*, which is even more difficult to control.

– ... nonetheless, she must reflect on why it ended up causing considerable damage.

If it wasn't for Karen's ability, there's the possibility that even more damage would have occurred.

– ... but, I'm happy that he saw the pretty face of my older sister.

She smiles.

(What's left is... oh right, it would be nice if there was an event where older sister and Kisaragi Hayato could get closer...)

Liza's plan will continue...



The fence broke due to the fallen tree.

Of course, the opening of the open-air bath was suspended.

Claire and the girls who got dirty by the cloud of dust, as well as Hayato who didn't even submerge in the hot springs, decided to clean themselves at a public bath close from there.

– I can't believe it became such an unthinkable thing.

Hayato and the children finished washing their bodies first, and were waiting for the girls in the lobby of the public bath.

Ha-ha-ha, while showing a smile without malice, Fritz recovered his head.

– This isn't a laughing matter...

Saying that, Hayato was immediately sighing in a big way.

– Oh, the idiots are side-by-side.

Latia was the first that came out of the girl's changing room, and said so in a condemning tone.

– There's something that I want to ask, especially this complete idiot of a person called Fritz.

Latia put her hands on her waist and glanced at Fritz while leaning forward.

– Fritz, is it true that you guided them and went to peep into the girls' bath?

– Ouch! Why are you stepping on my foot!? Moreover, throwing me a bucket, and now what are...

– Is it true?

While questioning him with a low voice, Latia stepped on the feet of Fritz.

– I'm telling you it hurts!

Escaping from Latia's feet, Fritz said.

– I was the one who told Hayato to go peeping, but I was originally instigated by these guys.

Fritz looked at the children of the institution.

– Wha, niichan! Are you blaming us!?

– How cunning!

Even though you were so passionate about it!

The children counterattacked in rapid succession.

– I knew it, you were the interested.

Latia put her hand in her waist when she heard that, and glared at Fritz.

– Hahaha, I'm a man after all, it's inevitable!

– ... so, did you see?

– Did I see what?

– You decided to see our naked bodies, right!?

– I didn't see!

– ... really?

Latia glared at him with suspicious and half-opened eyes.

Behind her, there are other girls who have their hands on their waist like Latia and are looking at him in a similar way.

– It's true. After a little while, the tree began to fall all of a sudden. Or perhaps I should say, why did it fall? If it's about how much we climbed, then it would be impossible for the tree to fall, right?

– Hmm, I wonder about that.

Emilia remembered now that she said that.

– I, felt it.

– An *energy*, right desuwane?

– If the Prez is saying so, then she felt it too.

– But...

With a wondering expression, Claire knits her eyebrows.

– What is it?

- ... no, I was wondering from who that *energy* was.
- It was too fast for me that I couldn't distinguish. How about Fritz and Hayato?
- Nope, I don't know.
- Me neither.

Following Fritz, Hayato answers.

- Is that so? In any case, I will investigate it properly later masuwa. In that case, there are things that need to be understood.

Once Claire said so, it was Latia who gave a voice of great joy.

- Oh! Look, Kenzaki Touka! There's fruit milk here too! Now we can drink it!
- Yes, absolutely!
- Then let's drink! Oba-chan, give me one!
- No, two!
- I'll drink one too!



The first one is Latia.

Then Touka.

And then Rebecca presented the money, and each one of them received a fruit milk.

Then, the three put a hand on their waist in unison, drinking in one go the fruit milk with *gulp gulp*.

Beside them, Claire continued having a mysterious expression on her face.

– President, what's the matter?

Hayato spontaneously asked because she seemed to only be thinking about something.

– Eh... well, it's nothing masenwa.

Answers Claire.

However, there's was something she had been thinking in her mind.

Just before the big tree collapsed.

As a matter of fact, she felt the *energy* was similar to Liza.

(But, Liza shouldn't be here...)

If that's the case, then what was that thing?

Of course, Claire couldn't arrive to an answer in that place.

Chapter 5: Date *Prank* Attack

The turbulent but enjoyable night ends.

On the morning of the next day, Latia and Fritz left Yamato ahead of Hayato and the girls as scheduled, and went to the Eurasian continent.

They will be returning to Little Garden in two weeks after visiting various countries.

Together with them, Sakura and Karen also left the institution.

The reason is, they have work in the imperial capital.

Hayato and the others will be joining with Karen in the imperial capital to return together to Little Garden.

Sakura has to go around the world for two weeks' work, so she will be coming back to Little Garden alone at a later date.

Therefore, the ones remaining in the institution are Hayato, Emilia, Touka, Rebecca, Aoi, Claire and Mei Mei.

However, Claire had to go out from noon, since there were meetings and the like at Motomatsu Base.

From the morning, Touka has been doing intensive training at Ryūsei's place.

Rebecca is with her, now that she also become a pupil of Touka.

Aoi is helping Ryōko, the children are at school—.

The remaining Emilia is repairing Mei Mei while keeping in contact with Charlotte.

As for the mechanism, the completely useless Hayato would just stand in her way, so he couldn't help her.

In other words, he's the only one doing nothing.

– It's been a long time since I could be leisurely like this...

He was murmuring something like that without thinking.

Instead, he wished to be helping Touka and accompany her with her training.
... nonetheless.

(Without a doubt, I'm getting tired)

It was because of the interview.

He was nervous and couldn't have a proper sleeping recently.

Although he still has to do a couple of shootings, he already ended the interview part, he got calm a little, so he can go to sleep soundly.

Thinking so, the sleepiness attacks instantly——.

Hayato was being dragged into the world of sleep.



— ... Kisaragi Hayato, Kisaragi Hayato...

— Hmm?

In response to the faint voice reaching his ears, Hayato opened his eyelids.

— ... what... was that?

He was sure that he heard the voice of a woman.

But, when sitting up, he didn't see anyone around him.

— ... was it a dream?

Stomach rumbling, his stomach made a sound.

When looking at the watch, it's 20:00.

The time for dinner has passed already.

(Nobody came to wake me up?)

For the time being, he heads to the living room.

Thinking so, he raised his body and left the room,

— Eh...

Deep in the hallway——.

Seeing a girl standing in front of the stairs, Hayato stared at her in wonder.

A girl with blonde hair and almond-shaped eyes.

Regarding her body, many thorny ivies are intertwined on it over and over again.

– Liza... why, are you here?

That's the girl for Hayato.

He spontaneously muttered, looking at Liza Harvey.

As a matter of course, he's perplexed.

At any rate, she shouldn't be here in the first place.

It's because she should be sleeping in the basement of Little Garden.

– Be calm.

– ——wha!?

When he noticed, Liza was in front of his eyes.

She traveled a distance of 10 meters approximately in the twinkling of an eye.

Then Liza put her index finger in front of her face and opened her mouth in a big way.

– Umm...

What's up with this situation?

– That's right, I'll call the President—

– Claire isn't coming back yet. Besides, I have something to talk with you, Kisaragi Hayato.

– ... with me?

– Yes, but not here...

Liza smiled meaningfully and stretched her right hand, towards Hayato's chest.

– How about talking in your room?

Just like an adult woman seducing a man, Liza crept her finger on the chest of

Hayato.

– Well, that's...

Hayato became surprised, thinking what to do.

– Oh, right. A little while ago, you called me out when I was sleeping...

– Ah, you noticed. I was a bit nervous for entering a man's room without permission.

Saying that, Liza put her finger on her lips, then *fufu*, showed an obscene smile on her face.

And just after that.

From the downstairs, the footsteps and voices of the children are heard.

That means dinner time is over.

– ... they are getting in the way.

Liza turned her eyes towards the staircase while pouting her lips in a disappointing way.

– I'm saying that I was trying to wake you up, but even if I push you into the room, we won't be able to talk. It's so disappointing.

This time, she knits her brows in sorrow.

– But... a good thing came into my mind.

A complete change from mere seconds ago.

Her expression brightening in a flash, Liza bent herself forwards towards Hayato.

– There's a big lake near here, right?

– Do you mean Nishina lake?

– Is there another big lake?

– No, that's the only one but...

– No, that will do. There should be a pier in that lake. Then, be there in an hour. Because I'll be waiting there. Of course, keep this a secret from Claire.

Leaving those words with him, Liza disappeared suddenly before his eyes.

Then, the children who came up the stairs are approaching him.

– Oh, nii-chan. You woke up.

– Sleepyhead-san!

– Go eat some food!

– Ah, yeah...

Hayato keeps company with the children.

However, his confusion continued.

(What on earth, was that?)

He doesn't understand.

But— —.

(... I only have to go, right...?)

At any rate, the other party is an important existence regarding Little Garden.

And because she's like an Ohime-sama, the Slayers must protect her.



An hour later.

As he promised Liza, Hayato came along the shore of Lake Nishina.

He thinks from the bottom of his heart that he was glad to be wearing his uniform because it was quite cold.

– ... hmm...?

Hayato doubted his own eyes.

It wasn't Liza who was there, but Claire dressed in her uniform.

– Kisaragi Hayato, what do you have to talk with me desuno?

– ... eh, talk?

Hayato is completely bewildered due to Claire's question.

– I came here because Liza told me she had something to talk with me...

– Wha...!?

Claire, who's face turned red, quickly clenched her teeth, her facial expression became severe.

(No way, this is the scheme that Liza devised to make me be alone with Kisaragi Hayato...?)

While thinking why she came to this place, and when she asked Kisaragi Hayato about why he's waiting in this place, Liza suddenly appeared before her eyes.

Then Liza's voice echoed in the head of Claire.

『The precious vacations are over. Why don't you enjoy the time together with the person you like so much more meaningfully?』

– Kuh...!

The expression of Claire reddens and becomes even more severe.

– What's wrong, President? Is something worrying you about Liza...?

– N-no... it's, it's nothing masenwa!

– Is that so?

– Ye-yes...

Claire replied.

Liza's voice is heard there.

『Don't worry. I won't stand in your way and I won't eavesdrop on your conversation. So, have a great time you two———』

In response to those words, Claire asks a question in her mind.

(I can trust in your words, right desuwane?)

『Sure it is』*

***TN: Written in English by the author.**

She would be very grateful if she doesn't do anything this time.

That's after she complained Liza.

But— —.

— ...

She doesn't know what to talk about.

— Err, Kisaragi Hayato...

— What is it?

— Well, it's about Liza, but...

In the end, it's the matter to talk.

— You see, I also saw Liza mashitawa. And then, she informed me that you have something to talk with me, so I came to this place desu.

— Eh, is that so? But I don't have anything in particular to talk with the president, that's why Liza...

— Is that so desuno?

Besides, why is Liza here...?

— I don't know how, but it seems that she came to Yamato because of us desu. And, wh-what on earth is she thinking about by dragging us to this place...?

— Ah.

Hayato remembers at the same time he listens the words of Claire.

— Then that means that the thing at the hot spring...

— Probably that's the correct interpretation.

Claire replied.

— I felt a weak *energy*, so I thought that it could be her, but now I'm sure of it desu. What is her real intention...?

— Come to think of it, I have heard from Karen some rumors that she often appeared at school too.

– ... Is that so desuka?

– Yes...

Liza thinks, while listening to the conversation between those two people.

(... it's not worth worrying and talking about me...)

She's a little impatient.

Although they are finally alone, she won't be satisfied with that till the mood becomes good.

Liza turns her eyes to the surroundings whether there's anything that will change this situation somehow.

She found a small boat floating in the lake.

Looking at it, Liza thought of something.

She moves to the top of the boat and materializes there.

She invited the two people to enjoy themselves a secret date at the lake at night.

First, she unties the string that is attached to the pier and moves on top of it.

There, Liza materialized.

– ... ah, President. Over there!

It was Hayato who noticed first the shining existence of Liza.

With that, Claire also notices the existence of Liza.

– Liza, why are you in that place!?

– Let's go.

– Yes.

Without knowing it was a trap, Hayato and Claire nodded to one another and ran towards the boat.

It was Hayato who first got into the small boat.

The moment he put his feet on the boat,

– Eh?

The boat suddenly started to move.

Only after that, Hayato notices that the rope is disconnected.

– Kisaragi Hayato!

Claire stretches her hand towards Hayato in order to stop the drifting boat.

However, the boat that started moving towards the center of the lake didn't stop at all.

As a result, it looked like Hayato was pulling Claire towards the boat.

– Kyaa!

Claire, who is about to fall, stretched her arm towards Hayato.

In a hurry to support her body, Hayato asks.

– Are you alright, President?

– Yes...

As a result, they were in a shape as if they were embracing each other.

He's feeling the chest of Claire.

And, when feeling the warmth of her body, Hayato finally noticed that fact.

– Ah, I'm sorry!

He separates himself from the body of Claire with both hands while apologizing in panic.

At the same time, the boat swayed.

– No, it's fine desunoyo... you saved me, hmm...?

– Ah...

The two noticed that the boat finally started moving towards the center of the lake.

– This is bad desuwane, now that we are this far from the shore, it will be hard to get back desuwayo.

– No, don't worry. This boat comes with oars, so we can return at once.

Hayato's completely right.

When looking closely, there are two oars placed on the bottom of the boat.

– I'm used to rowing oars.

Saying that, Hayato was about to pick the oars.

『This is your long-awaited chance. It will be wasted if you don't make use of it』

Claire is hearing the voice of Liza inside her head.

(Again, don't say unnecessary things...!)

It seems she was aiming for this when she made her appearance moments ago.

But, it certainly is a good opportunity.

A lake.

Two people on a boat.

How should progress this?

Claire concluded, looking at Hayato with a sidelong glance.

– ... say, Kisaragi Hayato.

– Yes?

– I appreciate your efforts but, why don't we enjoy the lake for a while masenka?

– ... eh?

Hayato is frozen while holding the oars.

– I would like to enjoy the view of Yamato seen from the lake desu.

– Well...

Despite thinking that it's fine, at this time no one is likely to come around here.

If it's for a few moments then why not?

– Understood. Then, shall we do so?

Hayato starts to hold the oars. The boat proceeded to move towards the

center of the lake.

– It is a very nice scenery desuwane.

– ... I agree.

Hayato nods.

The lake surface illuminated by the stars and the moonlight, and the visible range of mountains are very beautiful.

– I guess it is thanks to Liza that we can see a scenery like this, don't you agree masenwane?

– ... oh, that's right. Where's Liza...?

Hayato points his line of sight towards the shore.

But her figure is nowhere to be seen.

– Why on earth did Liza call us here?

Hayato throws an honest question.

– Maybe we won't get to know it masenwayo.

Lifting her eyebrows with a little angry appearance, Claire told him, spitting out.

– I am sure she is having a great time pranking us desuwa.

– A prank, huh.... By any chance, maybe she wants to play with us?

– Wants to play, you say...? Fufu, fufufu...

– Eh? Did I say something strange?

– Yes, you said a really funny thing masuwane.

– ?

Smiling happily and looking at Hayato who doesn't seem to agree with it, Claire continued her words.

– By the way, this is my second time talking with you on a lake like this desuwane.

– Like the time of the 《Operation: Bird in Cage》, correct?

– ... however, unlike that time, we aren't in the middle of an operation, and I am feeling very good desuwa.

– I am also feeling good. Even more since this is also my hometown.

– ... right, this is your hometown desuwane...

Murmuring in a deep emotional state, Claire looked at the surrounding scenery.

– ... Kisaragi Hayato. I am very happy that I could come to your hometown in this way before I go to the moon desuwa. Looking at the same scenery, breathing the same air, eating the same food... I feel that I have come to know you more masu.

– Is, is that so? I also like it, and it's the best if you were able to be pleased with all this...

– Li-like!?*

***TN: both these sentences lost their true meaning if it's not in Japanese.**

– Ah, yes. I came here after difficult things but, even so, this is the place where I have spent many years.

– I-I see, that's what you meant. That's what you meant desuwane.

– Eh? Is something wrong?

– N-no. It's nothing masenwayo.

– Is, is that so...

Silence flows between them.

– By the way, the President said just now that is going to the moon...

– Yes, that's correct desuwa. It's becoming a rumor, don't you agree? During next year, I will transfer to Lunaltia Base masu.

– And I'm going to remain here, right?

– Yes, as you said desuwa.

– When that happens, you will be separated. It looks a little lonely.

– ... you are right desuwane.

They look up at the moon floating in the sky.

A moon that can be reached if you stretch your hand.

But, it can't be reached.

It's in a very far place.

– But, I think that I will be coming and going a lot of times, and I think that it will be the same thing for you masuwayo.

– That will certainly happen...

They laugh together.

– President, it may be a little late to say something like this at this point of time but, thank you very much for this past year. I believe that I were able to grow so much thanks to the President.

– ... it's the best to receive such words desuwa. But, I hope you continue growing even more from now on. You will be in a position to train the youngers.

– Yeah... I'll do my best.

Like that, Liza was irritated looking at Hayato and Claire, who are going through a conversation that was frivolous in some respects.

(... it's a little irritating...)

Both of them don't cross the line on purpose.

It looks like she's hearing a drama-like conversation.

(I'm getting tired of waiting like this)

Or rather, she's already at her limit.

In this way, then a little prank will— —

No, not that.

She has no choice but to grant her another chance.

Otherwise, they won't move forward.

So, Liza started to move.

– Ei!

She stands by the side of the lake and swings her arms towards the small boat of Claire and Hayato.

Then—.

– Ah...!

Liza stared in wonder at the standing huge water column that was bigger than she thought.

– ——!?

– ...!?

Hayato and Claire respond to the feeling of the strong *energy*.

But—.

– Huh?

– Eh!?

The lake suddenly split and a water column of 20 meters high approximately stood up.

Because of that, the small boat they were on board swayed greatly, and lost their footing.

– Uwaa!?

– Kyaa!

The two fell down together.

– ... oops. It seems I failed to adjust the *energy*...

Liza, with a troubled look, scratched her cheek.

– But, the result is nice... rather, it's a huge success.

Regardless of the situation, the development went according to plan.

The small boat swayed greatly, Hayato and Claire fell down. As a result, they are at a very close distance.

Claire's appearance is as if she was pushing down Hayato.

(... don't tell me that that was Liza just now...)

For a moment, the energy that she felt is definitely from Liza.

Claire was convinced of that.

(——wha...!!)

Now, realizing that she was pushing down Hayato, Claire's face turned red.

At the same time, she also noticed that Hayato is fainting.

Maybe it's because he hit the back of his head when he fell down.

(... kuh...)

Gulp, Claire swallowed saliva.

Her eyes are nailed to the lips of Hayato, the distance is no more than 10 centimeters.

It reminds her of 《Operation: Bird in Cage》.

It was at the time when she kissed Hayato to destroy the defensive membrane of the Dragonfly type Savage that appeared in that opportunity.

(... the feeling of being satisfied at that time. I want to taste it, one more time...)

Her body is wishing for it.

She couldn't think about Liza and that she could be watching her.

Being just stimulated by desire, Claire put her lips on Kisaragi Hayato's lips.

Not only that, she's also entwining their tongues.

— *roll... kiss... roll... roll... nn, kiss...*

***TN: roll: Rolling something with/on the tongue**

She doesn't stop.

She can't stop.

Her chest hurts a lot that is bursting.

But, she's happy...

(No good, this sensation.... It's as if Kisaragi Hayato's thing flows into my body...)



Her body gets hot and her heart gets filled.

It was a long kiss, it lasted for more than 10 seconds.

– Puaah...

At the same time as their lips separated, Claire has a fascinated expression.

Between their lips, the saliva was pulling a long thread.

– ... wha, what am I...!!

Claire, who came to her senses, was taken aback.

Then, Hayato woke up.

– ... agh... I, what just...

Hayato tries to raise his body.

The flustered Claire also raised her body and separated from Hayato.

– A-are you okay desuno? You hit your head and fainted desuwayo.

– Eh, ah, is that so? I'm sorry, President. It looks like I caused trouble for you.

– N-no, not at all masenwayo.

– Besides, umm...

Hayato was about to ask her what the water column of a while ago was.

Then their PDAs abruptly sounded at the same time.

– Who's there!?

Hayato and Claire are surprised.

Because they felt *energy* once again.

However, it's different from the one of a while ago.

– You guys, why are you flirting in a place like this!?

The voice they heard came from overhead.

When they looked up at the sky, Emilia was riding a vehicle that was shaped like a giant ray* and created by her Innocence type Hundred *Arms Shroud* around 20 meters high.

***TN: a fish of superorder batoidea.**

When Emilia jumps off, the vehicle disappears.

In exchange for it, guns appear in her hands.

Emilia aimed with precision at Hayato and Emilia and shot them.

– ... kuh!

They couldn't afford to deploy their Hundred.

Claire gathers *energy* on the palm of her hand and deploys an E *barrier*.

However, she couldn't suppress the shot since she wasn't armed.

– Kyaah!

Claire flies backwards, pushed by the light bullets.

With that force, the small boat rolled over.

– Kyaah!

And following Claire who screamed,

– Uwaah!

Hayato was also thrown into the lake.

Emilia landed on top of the rolled small boat using *Arms Shroud*.

– What do you think you are doing, Emilia Hermit!

Claire shouts when turning up of the lake surface.

While looking down at her figure, Emilia put both hands on her waist and said.

– Those are my words! Hayato and you were having a boat date!

– Da-da-da-da-da-da-da-, date you say...!?

Claire blushes in an instant.

– Am I wrong? No matter how I look at it, it looks like a date to me!

– Ce-certainly it looks like a date... no, it wasn't a date but...

– If it's not a date, then what is it, huh!?

– Well, that's, Liza is...

– ... Liza...? Are you telling me that Liza was doing all of this!?

– No, that’s not it...

– Puhaa... ah—

At the very same moment when Hayato turns up of the water’s surface.

Looking at the two who are fighting in front in front of him, Hayato exclaimed.

– What are you doing you two!?

– Don’t say a word, Hayato!

– Be quiet, Kisaragi Hayato!

Claire and Emilia gathered their voices.

– But, and the emergency call...

– Ah!

– I forgot desuwa!

Even though it has been ringing all the time, they didn’t care about it completely. Or rather, they didn’t care at all.

– Anyway, take us out of here.

– Eh, I have to help Prez too?

Emilia raised a dissatisfied voice.

In response, Claire shouted.

– Get moving! A state of emergency is occurring desuwayo!

– Yes, yes, I understand, I understand.

Emilia, who created a large surfboard with a gigantic ray shape with *Arms Shroud*, pulled up Hayato and Claire on it and moved to the lakeside.

– It’s still really cold...

Claire, who is dripping wet, sighed greatly.

– ... President, are you okay?

– To be honest, I want to go back to the institution and take a bath desuwayo.
Leaving that aside, what happened desu?

Claire asked Emilia at the same time she drops to the ground.

– I don't know. I was thinking about where Hayato went, because I checked his GPS position and came in search of him. Then, I felt a strong *energy*... and, well... that's right, I forgot about the alert!

Emilia took out the PDA from her chest pocket.

Then, the screen of the emergency alert changes to the appearance of Charlotte.

『... Emilia. You know what means an emergency alert, don't you? And you took a while to respond』

– I'm very sorry. By the way, Hayato and the Prez are also here.

Emilia directed the PDA's camera to Hayato and Claire. She then realized that both of them got wet.

『Good grief, you guys seem to be always relaxed, no matter the place, huh?』

Sighing amazed, Charlotte continues.

『... now, onto the real issue at hand. I confirmed the reaction of Savage in space』

– What did you say!?

It was Claire who raised her voice.

『The predicted falling point thanks to the measurements of Liza has a 90% to be around Motomatsu Base in Imperial Yamato——that is, where you guys are now』

– In short, we are entering in a sortie state?

『Yeah, like you said』

Charlotte answered Hayato who asked and continued her words.

『... okay so, are you returning to the institution soon? Are you carrying your Variable Suits?』

– Yes, we are bringing them with us.

Although there are no *Outers*, they are bringing the Suits when situations like

this have occurred.

『Okay then, I'll leave it to you. While you return, I'll be keeping in touch with Motomatsu Base to set up a strategy』

– Then, let's go back to the institution. I'm going to place a vehicle.

Saying that, Emilia deploys her Hundred— —.

Arms Shroud made a board shaped like a ray.

– Unlike a while ago, we are going to fly through the skies. Get on, Hayato. You too, Prez.

Following what he was told, Hayato got on the board.

– ... err, Prez?

Emilia calls out Claire for a second time, since she turns her back to them, staring fixedly at the lake.

– Prez! Why are you doing nothing? We have to get back soon!

– Eh, ah, this.... You are right desuwane.

Claire turned back and moved towards the board, approaching it with a jog.



In the orphanage* there were Rebecca, Aoi, Touka—and Mei Mei.

*TN: I'm glad I didn't use orphanage before and stick with institution (abbreviated form is home but went for the other one), since THIS is the word for orphanage in Japanese: 児童養護施設 = jidouyougoshisetsu.

『Hmm, I'm troubled. Properly speaking, I would like to request local support to you but...』

Charlotte was showing a troubled look on the screen of the PC that Aoi opened.

『I am sorry, Emilia-sama seems to have been unable to repair it.... Because of that, I cannot manipulate the PC properly...』

– In that case, then who's the one who connected this communication?

– Eh, umm, it was me.

『... hmm? Certainly, you are...』

– I am in second year of Little Garden middle school—Umino Aoi. And umm... if it's a computer, then I can use it for a bit and... I can be the helper of Mei Mei-san...

– Yeah, that's true. This girl, Aoi, has the goal of entering the intelligence department of Warslan, you know.

– Come on, Rebecca. That's still a secret!

The face of Aoi turns deep red.

Charlotte smiled and grinned at the sight of her figure, and hit the keyboard of the computer in front of her.

『I'm looking at the data of Aoi-kun now. Your scholarly ability and skills seems to be promising. I'll rely on you for the role of supporter of Mei Mei』

– Is that true!?

『... though, I guess there will be staff of Motomatsu Base, so I don't think that there'll be that much work. But, you'll be doing a properly job of control. I'm counting on you』

– Yes! Tha-thank you very much!



Hayato and the girls returned to the institution and the first thing they did was to change to their Variable Suits.

Claire and Emilia were in the room where they were staying at and were changing clothes all together.

In the middle of that, Claire couldn't get away that thing from her head.

(The *energy* of Liza that couldn't control. And now, the attack of the Savage...)

There's only one thing she can imagine from those two events.

(As expected, Liza attracted the Savage this time——)

Like blessing in disguise, their numbers aren't that high, and the chances for unknown Savage is almost zero.

(However, if the Savage come along because of the powerful *energy* of Liza, then there's no doubt that Lunaltia Project is essential for the Earth masuwane...)

Attracting the Savage to the moon can prevent attacks on the Earth.

And at the same time, in the thin atmosphere of the moon, the distance that Liza's *energy* can be felt will be longer.

If so, there are greater chances that a large amount of Savage will come, and also that new species that they have never seen before may come.

(It seems that it will be a really tough battle once I have left to Lunaltia Base desuwane...)

— Prez, why are you spacing out? We have to change our clothes at once, you know.

Emilia, who finished changing to her Suit, spurs Claire.

— I know that masuwayo. I-I will change my clothes in no time masuwa!

Flustering, Claire equipped her Variable Suit.

『8 Savage are predicted to fall——and none of them are Unknown type nor Trenta type Savage. All of them seem to be either regular——or giant type Savage』

That's the communication from Chris from Little Garden's strategy conference room.

In the backyard of the institution, a huge antenna for camping was extended.

Through the PC of Aoi connected to it, this place and Little Garden——as well as Motomatsu Base, are connected.

『... in short, that means they aren't difficult enemies』

The voice heard was from Yumina at Motomatsu Base.

Her figure was on the screen of the PC.

– But, be on your guard desuwayo.

She suspected that a relieved mood was flowing among everyone.

– Although it looks like they are regular type, the Savage are still unknown creatures, so we don't know what will happen. No matter what the situation is, don't be self-conceited masenwa.

Hayato and everyone who received those words show discipline again.

『Well then, it's time to announce the distribution of the teams. Aoi-kun. Please project the data from here on your PC』

– Ro-roger!

Aoi received the communication from Charlotte and operates the computer in front of her.

The portrait photo and name of each Slayer are on the screen.

And the team composition is displayed.

Emilia, who looked into it, gave a happy voice.

– Yay! I'm in the same team as Hayato!

– Hey, stop!

Emilia takes the arm of Hayato as if she was clinging to it.

Although it was Claire who looked at them and made a stiffened expression for an instant, she regained her calmness, looking at Hayato pulling Emilia apart.

– ... then I will fight with the freshmen desuwane.

Claire's line of sight is directed to Sango and Mirai displayed on the PC.

『N-no way, I can fight together with Claire-sama? I am extremely happy. The best of the honors desuwa. Rather, I have to thank the Savage..』

『No, I think it's no good if you give your thanks to the Savage...』

Mirai talks exasperated.

Without thinking, Hayato makes a bitter smile.

Charlotte laughed happily with a loud voice, and continued speaking.

『Claire, join the two freshmen and confirm their skills by fighting together』

– Understood.

Claire replies. In other words, she will ascertain on the same battlefield whether they are suitable for *Selections* or not.

(If it's those two, then I'm sure they'll be fine)

Hayato who has fought with them, thinks so.

Next, they heard the voice of Yumina.

『... so, I am by myself. If it's okay with you, I'd like two trainees to accompany me. We have to train Slayers, since Sango and Mirai won't be here after this』

– If the commander of Motomatsu Base says gives her approval, then I don't see the problem with it.

Charlotte answered that.

『You don't have any complaints, Mika?』

Yumina asks from the other side of the monitor.

The voice of Mika, the commander of Motomatsu Base, was immediately heard.

『There's no problem. Rather, I welcome it. However, if there's any abnormality, contact us immediately. If the situation becomes dangerous, send the trainees back. Are we clear?』

『Of course, I'll do exactly that』

After Mika answered, Yumina told Charlotte.

『It should be fine if we knock down normal type Savage?』

『Yes, that's fine』

—speaking of that, Hayato and Emilia will take care of 3. Claire, Mirai and Sango of another 3. And if Yumina and the trainees defeat the last 2, then it's *mission complete*.

– Wait a minute please!

It was Touka who shouted an objection when it seemed that everyone agreed this strategy.

– Why am I not in the sortie!? I can fight the Savage too, and even I won the preliminary contest of individual matches——

Charlotte answers the question.

『Touka-kun, you have just recovered from an injury, isn't it? It's still dangerous. So, you'll have to standby this time』

– ... but...

– Step back this time.

Hayato taps the dropped shoulder of the dejected Touka.

Then, Touka muttered with disappointment.

– ... this was a rare chance to show good things to my apprentice...

In short, she wanted to show good things to Rebecca.

『Well then, everyone to sortie——』

Following the communication from Mika, Aoi gave a loud voice.

E-everyone, I will be praying for your brave efforts!

– Aoi-chan, as the substitute of Mei Mei, do your best.

– Ye-yes! I will give my best effort!

The face of Aoi turned deep red as she replied to Emilia who tapped her shoulder.

– Okay, let's go. *HUNDRED ON!*

Emilia deployed the Hundred, *Arms Shroud*, and created a flying vehicle with a giant ray appearance.

– Hayato, get on.

– Got it.

I will also start moving masuwa——*HUNDRED ON!*

Following Emilia, Claire deployed her Hundred and floated in the sky using it as a *thruster*.

Emilia also floats in the sky with the flying device.

Mei Mei said to all of them while waving her hand.

***TN: The best line of the whole novel in 3, 2, 1.**

– Everyone, you can do it degozarimasunanodesu～!



Claire, Sango and Mirai gather in the sky.

They started moving towards the designated standby point.

– You girls, how many times have you fought with the Savage desuka?

Asked Claire, flying through the sky using the six floating turrets of her Hundred 《Noble Battle Princess》*Alisterion* as *thrusters*.

Both Sango and Mirai were flying in the sky using their *Outer*.

– Hmm, 7 times, I guess?

Mirai answered the question of Claire.

Following her, Claire asks.

– Are you always together on the battlefield?

– Yes! We have been together since the beginning! Even Yumina-san was with us. And in an opportunity, for the *Third Attack*, we were with Kisaragi-san——

– I have heard about that story masuwa. Both of you did a wonderful job desuwane.

– Th-that's... our efforts...

Feeling embarrassed, the face of Sango dyes red.

She puts both hands on her face.

There, a communication from Aoi enters.

『Pr-President Claire, can you hear me?』

– I can hear you masuwayo.

Claire immediately returns a response.

『You will soon arrive at the designated point. Please switch over to the standby state there』

– Acknowledged mashitawa. Sango, Mirai. Let's descend masuwayo.

– Yees.

– Roger!

The two answered and went down and stood on the ground with Claire.

– Aoi.

Claire talks through the neck communication device.

『Ye-yes!』

She was surprised by the sudden call of Claire.

So Aoi responded with a loud voice.

『I am sorry, President Claire! Di-did I make a mistake?』

– No, everything is fine masenwayo. For now, there are no problems at all, your directions are on point desuwa. I just wanted to say thanks desu.

『Ah, thank you very much...!』

– Please keep giving us instructions with this impetus masuwa... and——

An alert sound was heard far away.

It's sounding from the direction of Aoi.

It wasn't heard only by Claire, but also by Sango and Mirai.

– It looks like they are coming desuwane.

Following the words of Claire, Sango and Mirai also look up at the sky.

There, a report from Aoi entered.

『Reporting to Claire squad. One minute until the Savage fall——the location is 1522 meters to the east-southeast from your current position!』

– If so, then in that direction is the forest... desuwayone?

『Ye-yes! Just like Claire-sama said!』

– If that's the case, then there won't be any casualties masenwane. The distance is short, so let's give up bombarding the Savage during their fall. We will be aiming for the moment they land on the ground to begin the attack masuwayo. Are both of you ready desuwane?

Claire looks at their faces.

– Yup.

– Of course desuwa.

Both Mirai and Sango nodded.

– Well then, let's move masuwayo.

The three of them soar in the sky once again.

While approaching the predicted falling point, Claire tells the strategy.

– Sango and I will attack with our floating batteries the falling Savage. That will disturb them, preventing the Savage of doing something masuwa. Aiming at that gap, Mirai will destroy the cores. Understood desuwane?

「『Yes!』」

Sango and Miray answered all together.

– ... the predicted falling point should be around here desuwane. Aoi, can you hear me masuka?

『I-I hear you. There is no problem in that place. In about 10 seconds, two Savage will come in contact with the ground!』

According to those words——.

After 10 seconds or so, *BOOM BOOM*, the earth shook.

The Savage landed.

Claire shouted, while adjusting the balance of her body by using her knee to

endure the trembling.

– Sango, let's go masuwayo!

– Roger desuwa!

The *Alisterion* of Claire.

And then the 《Red Dragon Knight》 *Drag Red* of Sango.

A total of ten floating batteries from the two armaments attack the Savage.

The strategy is a success.

With the lasers emitted from each one of the batteries, the Savage became unable to move.

– Now desuwayo, Mirai!

– Okay!

Mirai has already generated arrows of *energy*.

The Hundred that the girl is holding is a bow— —*Hamanotsurara*.

– Here I gooo!

A bluish-white arrow was fired and pierced magnificently into the core of the Savage, making an explosion.

– We did it mashitawa!

Sango raised both hands, looking at the Savage whose core was destroyed and stopped moving.

Her tension relaxed, together with a voice of delight.

But all of that was blown away in an instant by Claire's shout.

– Not yet masenwa, Sango!

It's because a light shone behind the Savage that was defeated.

Another Savage was already in the back, and fired a bombardment.

Sango is on a straight line of that— —

– Ah...

Because she was losing her focus, her response was late.

She even couldn't return the floating batteries to her own position.

If this continues, it will be a direct hit.

But still— —.

— ... kkuh!!

Sango tried to deploy a barrier towards the beam, hoping that she could suppress some damage from it.

(wh-what...?)

When she noticed the fear and the dazzling light of it, Sango realizes that her body is trembling and closed her eyes.

5 seconds should have passed already after deploying the barrier.

However, she doesn't feel an impact on her body nor the barrier.

... just what on earth happened?

While wondering about it, Sango opened her eyelids.

What met her incessantly blinking eyes was a shield made with six red floating batteries.

— ... Claire-sama?

Looking back, Claire instantly calls attention to Sango who turned her eyes to her.

— This is not the place to stand there being stupefied masenwayo. Another blow is coming masuwa. Immediately after the bombardment, a gap can be made for a moment masu. That is our chance— —I will defend against it like I just did, you shoot through the core with Buster Cannon!

— Ro-roger desuwa!

Sango creates Buster Cannon using the floating batteries that came back to her.

Then, injects a lot of *energy* into it.

— Here it comes masuwayo!

In accordance with Claire's shout, the Savage fired a second bombardment.

And for a second time too, the shield created by Claire stops the blow perfectly.

(From here on, it is my duty...! I absolutely have to shoot through the core of the Savage, I can't do the same mistake of moments ago...!)

The shield in front of her eyes is dispersing, then it returns to the six floating batteries, and those go back to the position of Claire.

At the same time, she saw the Savage in front of her.

– I will shoot you masuwayo!

Aiming at the core, Sango shoots a beam from Buster Cannon.

She shoots splendidly through the core, and stopped the movement of the Savage.

. You did it well mashitawane.

Pant, Pant... Claire approaches Sango, whose shoulders are shaking while holding Buster Cannon in her hands.

– However, I caused trouble for Claire-sama...

Returning Buster Cannon to the floating batteries, Sango feels despondent and drops her shoulders.

While gently stroking her head, Claire smiles.

– It's fine desuwayo. There's already another Savage here. Let's bring it down properly.

– Ah, yes...!

Raising her face, the facial expression of Sango shines in a flash.

– Thank you very much, Claire-sama!



『The second conventional type Savage has been defeated by Claire squad!』

They are now moving towards the third Savage!』

Aoi launches a transmission towards Hayato and Emilia who are in the middle of deployment.

Immediately after that, *BEEP*, *BEEP, an alert resounded.

– ... eh?

She doesn't know what happened, Aoi is bewildered.

A communication from Charlotte entered there.

『This has become a little problematic』

Her voice was a bit dark and heavy.

『There's a chance that one Savage will fall near the institution where you are located——the predicted falling point is farther than expected——moreover, is earlier than expected. Originally, Kirikagure Yumina was supposed to be in charge of it』

– Wh-what do we do? Teams other than Yumina-san's are already heading towards their respective targets——

『Should Yumina face it?』

What entered next was a communication from Mika at Motomatsu Base.

『They should be able to move there in 10 minutes』

– There's no need for that.

Of course, those aren't the words of Aoi.

But Touka's words.

– Eh?

Aoi is amazed.

Turning around, Touka got up from the chair and folded her arms with proud.

– That one is going to fall right next to this base, isn't it? Then I'll go and kill it.

– Touka-senpai, are you serious!?

Rebecca asks, standing up from the chair like Touka did.

– Rebecca, you want to see my fight too, don't you?

– Of course I do!

– Then, follow me. Let's go, Rebecca!

– Understood!

– Wait, Rebecca!

Standing up, Aoi shouted.

Regardless of Touka who has battle experience, it's dangerous for Rebecca.

As well as actual battle, since it has become possible for her to deploy Hundred within less than a month.

『... those children, it can't be helped』

Charlotte murmured amazed from the other side of the screen.

『It will be impossible for us to stop them, so let them go. I can't imagine Touka-kun doing something that could make Rebecca-kun fight or to end up injured. If you think about it, this will be a good stimulus from now on』

– But...

『If it's the Touka-kun of now, then she should be able to do something about that Savage. If it looks dangerous, she'll call for support and if something happens, I'll take responsibility for it. What's left is for you to give them instructions, don't you think? Believing in the ability of the Slayers, and giving them directions are the tasks of the control side』

– Ye-yes!



– Take thiiii—s!

Emilia created a large gun with *Arms Shroud*, and shot through the core of a normal type Savage.

– ...alright.

Emilia confirmed that the Savage stopped moving, and after wiping the sweat of her forehead, asked Hayato while looking at him.

– Now we only have to defeat the remaining large Savage that, right?

– Yeah, that should be...

Hayato stared motionlessly at a distant place, without turning back towards Emilia.

– ... is something wrong, Hayato?

– It seemed that a Savage had fallen to the direction of the institution now.

At the same time Hayato says so, the voice of Aoi is heard from the communication device.

『Hayato-san, Emilia-san, do you hear me?』

– Ah, Aoi-chan? Should we go and defeat the Savage that is falling near the institution?

『Ah, no. It is already falling to a site 2 kilometers to the east of the place where you two are』

– 2 kilometers to the east...?

Emilia calls out Hayato who murmured so.

– The direction is different from what Hayato saw a few seconds ago.

– Umm, Umino-san.

『Ye-yes... what is it?』

Hayato throws a question to Aoi who is shaking for being called out.

– A few moments ago, I saw a Savage falling towards the institution, but...

There are no Slayers being deployed at the base now.

That's why, Hayato was getting anxious.

『Ah, yes but the thing is...』



– ... it seems it's coming.

It was a minute ago when Hayato and Aoi started a communication.

Together with Rebecca, Touka went outside of the institution and headed to the forest where the Savage fell, and muttered while looking up at the sky.

『Touka-san, the Savage has landed』

The voice of Aoi is heard from the PDA that Rebecca is holding.

– Acknowledged.

Immediately after Touka answered.

Following the sound of cracking branches of the trees, the ground trembled lightly.

The Savage fell nearby.

– *HUNDRED ON!*

Touka creates a black sword in her hand.

It's the one that Charlotte made, imitating the sword that Hokuto, the father of Touka, made.

《Hokuto • Revised》

– Rebecca, look over there. Do you know the Savage?

Ahead of Touka's line of sight.

On the other side where there's a huge quantity of trees, suspicious golden eyes are shining.

– ... that's, a Savage...

Her whole body trembles.

This was the first time for Rebecca seeing a Savage directly, the muscles along the spine tremble.

The creature that had a bizarre appearance made her feel that level of fear.

(Touka-senpai and the others are fighting such kind of monsters?)

Her instinct is telling her to run away.

To leave from here, right now.

(... no, I can't. Because I'll be a Slayer!)

So, she will stay firmly in this place.

She will see with her own eyes.

The battle of Touka-senpai!

Telling that to herself, Rebecca suddenly clenches her teeth and gazes at the Savage.

And then— —.

— Ah...

The Savage opened its head.

Rebecca knows that that is a signal of bombardment.

So, she shouted.

— Senpai, the Savage is!

However, Touka doesn't move.

She just stood there while fixedly glaring at the Savage.

— ... no problem. Rebecca, hide behind me.

— Ye-yes!

Doing as she was told, Rebecca takes a roundabout path behind Touka.

The back of her body is in front of her eyes, it looks very strong.

However, it doesn't change the fact she's scared.

She noticed that Rebecca was slightly trembling.

— There's nothing to be afraid of. Keep looking.

Saying that, Touka extended her right hand to the Savage.

And there, a bombardment swoops down.

— Ah...

The front of Rebecca became pure white.

However——.

– Eh? Touka-senpai, what was that?

The light immediately flicks and the original scenery returns.

Rebecca has no injuries, Touka who's in front of her eyes is also uninjured.

– I erased the bombardment.

Turning only her neck, Touka showed a grin and a smile.

– ... erased it? That was an E *barrier*... right?

However, she couldn't see that.

Even Rebecca who just started learning about the Hundred can understand it.

– It seems mine is a kind of N *barrier*. Charlotte said that it has special properties that cannot be imitated by ordinary people. So, I guess it can't be used as a reference but, it's different here——.

Touka kicks off the ground and runs.

– Look! I have a sword, you have fists——but there's still something to learn!
Haaa!

Rebecca gave a voice spontaneously, looking at Touka who started an attack to the Savage while dodging the giant pincers.

– Amazing!

The movements of the Savage stopped briefly after being sent flying to the back by the slash of Touka.

With that gap, Touka jumped high and held aloft the sword greatly, aiming for the defensive barrier of the Savage——and the core beyond that.

– Take this, Kenzaki Style Secret Technique——《Slashing Traces》*Zaneizan*!*

***TN: Guess what, my friends: The author ONCE AGAIN changed the kanji or reading for one of his creations. Before the Kanji was 斬影斬, which gave me a HUGE headache, but now is 残影斬.**

——《Zaneizan》——

It's a technique to instantly make two slashings and give the target a shock many more times than normal.

However, for Rebecca it seemed that she had destroyed not only the defense barrier, but also the core of the Savage, with a single blow.

That's because Touka has released two slashings with that much speed.

– Incredible! Amazing, Touka-senpai!

Rebecca, who searched for her, came running towards Touka while jumping up and down beside her.

– Fufufu, that's obvious. That's why is called 《Zaneizan》. It's a technique created by my Shishō, Ryūsei.

– Ryūsei you say? That uncle of Yamato!?

– ... yup. Despite appearances, he's the brother of my father, and the one who has a magnificent skill of the sword. I got Shishō to teach me the know-how of 《Zaneizan》so I could use it, and became able to fight the Savage.

– Kno-...? If I know that, if I'm able to use《Zaneizan》, then I'll be able to fight the Savage?

– Uh huh, as I said earlier, supposing that you can do it with your fists, then, if possible, you should be able to fight the Savage. By the way, about the know-how...

Although it was Touka who tried to ready her sword, and began to speak with a proud look,

– ... ah?

Clink, the sword fell from her hand.

– Touka-senpai, is something wrong?

– ... if I were as always, then this much won't be nothing but... my skill isn't at its normal condition yet...

It seems that her arms suffered considerable damage due to the reaction of using 《Zaneizan》.

(It looks like I won't be able to train for a few days with this...)

While sighing, Touka took the sword that fell to the ground, returned it to a Hundred and said.

– That’s right, the know-how... I’ll teach it to you properly once we return to Little Garden.

– Really!? Thank you very much, Touka-senpai!

Rebecca smiled happily from the bottom of her heart.



『Touka-san has defeated the Savage. Rebecca-san is safe too!』

– ... that’s good to know...

Hayato, who heard the communication from Aoi just before confronting the large Savage, breathed a sigh of relief from the bottom of his heart.

He was anxious since it was unavoidable to hear that Touka and Rebecca went to defeat the Savage near the base.

Emilia gave a warning to him.

– I know you are feeling relieved, but don’t lose your focus.

– I know that.

Saying that, Hayato readied *Hien*.

Before his line of sight, there’s the appearance of a large Savage.

The biggest one in this raid.

It’s in a state where it’s about to bombard, it’s even with its head opened all the way.

– I won’t let you do it!

Emilia shouted, using *Arms Shroud* that deployed around her body to create six swords with a sharp tip—floating around her body, and one by one, she continued releasing them towards the Savage.

Every time a sword pierces the Savage, it steps backwards, pushed by its

power.

And just after the six swords stuck into the Savage.

All the swords that were fired shone and exploded with a *BOOM*.

The body of the Savage shakes violently to the left and right.

Now it can't attack with its left and right pincers.

– Now, let's go, Hayato!

– Yeah!

Emilia jumped up and kicked the ground and creates a white sword similar to Hayato's *Hien* with *Arms Shroud* and attacks the Savage.

Following her, Hayato also kicked the ground.

– Yaaaaaaaaaaaaa!

First, the white sword of Emilia swoop down on the Savage.

That slash destroys the defense barrier.

Hayato also swung *Hien*.

That slash destroys the core.

– Hooray!

Emilia landed on the ground, looking at the Savage collapsing from its legs and raised a voice of joy.

Following her, Hayato who looked up at the Savage, also leaks a voice of relief.

– We are done with this...

A communication from Aoi entered there.

『The annihilation of all the Savage has been confirmed. Thanks for your hard work, everyone』

Not only Hayato and Emilia, that communication is also reaching Claire.

– Thank you for your hard work deshitawa. Aoi, your instructions were perfect deshitawayo.

『Tha-thank you very much, Claire-sama!』

The voice of Aoi who received the words of appreciation from Claire was of surprise and happiness. Nevertheless, Claire smiled in satisfaction while listening to that reply, and called out the two people nearby.

– Mirai, Sango. As one would expect of you two. I am truly grateful that people like you will become members of Little Garden desuwa.

Claire felt the joy of their youthful strength and told them her feelings that came up from the bottom of her heart.

– I can go to the moon feeling relieved masuwa.

When listening to such words of Claire, Sango shows a somewhat sad expression.

Mirai said, touching her shoulder.

– Yes, this became our memories.

– ... yup.

Sango nods.

Claire gazed at the intimate two with a look that overflowed with affection.



Sango, Mirai, And, Claire.

A person was gazing at the three people from the top of a cliff a little away from there.

A girl with blond hair, with many thorny ivies coiling around her white, beautiful and pure skin.

She's Liza Harvey.

(Mankind really became stronger. There's no place for me to do anything)

While showing a smile on her face, Liza muttered in her heart.

(I'm not alone anymore... on the contrary, they don't need me anymore. If it's

the mankind of now, then they'll find the way to make it through. Humans can protect the earth by themselves...) And so, with confidence, she can go to the moon.

She can fight with God.

(... and, I'm at already at my limit. Let's meet again in Little Garden, Onee-sama)

The figure of Liza disappeared from that place.

Epilogue

– Then, should I do that?

Murmured Charlotte, who looked at the ceiling after sitting deeply in the chair of her laboratory.

(I don't have a choice but to consult her)

Deciding so, Charlotte tapped the floating keyboard, holding a new candy in her mouth.

Before long, the appearance of a woman who wore a white coat similar to hers was displayed on the monitor.

She's Vitaly Tynyanov.

『... oh! How unusual. Or rather, this is the first time since I became like this that I'm talking with you in this way』

– I want to hear your opinion about something, after all.

『... hou. That's also unusual』

Being surprised, Vitaly rounded her mouth.

– I'll be sending a file now. Take a look at the contents. The code to open it is the name of your loved one and your birthday. Because it's a confidential matter, you are prohibited to tell anyone about this, as well as leaking it on the *cybernet*.

『Not even Judal?』

– For the time being. After hearing your opinion, I planned to go and talk with him directly. ... so, what do you think? Although it's a huge amount of information, you should be able to read it in no time.

『Wait a moment』

She waited for 30 seconds.

『I finished reading it. I'm amazed. If a scientist before the *First Attack* read this absurd story about a《space-time moving device》*time machine* and the like,

it would laugh scornfully— —but now that won't be the case』

— ... yeah, a durable device coming from the steel core of a Savage. And where it may be possible to use the power from their *energy* and core. In reality, it makes me think that it's an ability that the Savage can use.

『... however, this kind of conclusion is unthinkable from the physics of the modern era. There are too many logical leaps. Who's the inventor of this theory? Charlotte, it wasn't you, right?』

— It's the father of your lover— —Bill Harvey. Bill-kun.

『... what the hell?』

It's no wonder that Vitaly is surprised.

Bill Harvey was the son of a wealthy person, but he wasn't a researcher.

『Why can a human like him invent such a theory? As expected of an average citizen who was able to reach this level... 』

— Surely, it's thanks to *brain computing*.

After the death of his wife Linis Harvey.

Bill Harvey retired from the line and handed over the seat of the company president to Judal Harvey, his particular son, and continued living in his residence.

Only a few people know what he's doing.

But Charlotte knew.

『*Brain computing*?』

Vitaly said, being surprised.

At any rate, *brain computing* connects the computer directly to the brain.

It's also possible to fully utilize the brain, since only a 10% of it is used every day, increasing the potential of thinking ability, learning ability and calculation ability of human beings.

— As a matter of fact, it's said that it has such an effect. It's a wonderful achievement. However, it seems that there are some abnormalities in the

personality of the person, and the burden on the body is too big.

『So, it wasn't your creation——』

– It cannot be helped if you are an observer and you are broken. Well, when the limit comes to your body, or in case this world cannot be helped, then it's possible to take that into consideration and do so. It might be like a plan to prolong your life, or to release yourself onto the *cybernet* world and live forever there.

『It's a painful thing to not die. So it's not that good either』

– I can imagine it.

Charlotte, who took out a stick from inside her mouth, took a short pause, then continued her words, while putting a new candy on her mouth.

– ... let's return to the topic. He——Bill-kun devoted himself to research using *brain computing*, without caring if he approached death——even if he destroyed his own body and mind. Do you know the reason why?

『Because there was a thing harder than death』

– Correct. I didn't hear his objective directly. After all, I hacked and robbed the data. But, I was able to presume so. Both him and his research on medicine

***TN: The author/editor messed up the lines of Vitaly and Charlotte from this point. But I fixed them for you**

『The disease that killed Linis——to treat her incurable disease』

– Pretty much. To sum it up, Bill-kun is going to return to the past using the *time machine*, and we can infer that he's going to try and deliver the developed medicine to Linis. He's also fighting god, in the same way as his wife did. That's why he is fighting the cause and effect of this world.

『As a matter of fact, in case the *time machine* is completed, if that is even possible, what do you think will happen if Bill Harvey returns to the past and hands over the medicine to Linis Harvey?』

– Maybe this world won't change in the absolute. That's what I think.

『So, interpretation of multiple worlds, huh?』

– Bull’s eye. But, I don’t know what will actually happen. Therefore, I’ve been considering that I definitely want the *time machine* to be completed. To understand how is going to be connected with this world. Besides— —.

Grinning and smiling, Charlotte continued.

– The theory of a *time machine* is also applicable to warp navigation. Rather, the feasibility in that area is higher. No, I can say that it’s possible. If warp navigation is possible, then we’ll be able to find out from where the Savage are coming and cut off the root.

『... but, Charlotte. Why are you telling all of this to me?』

– Well, I have one big question.

『A question?』

– To be honest, do you think that all of this theory was really invented by Bill Harvey? Even if he could demonstrate his intelligence beyond the limits because of *brain computing*, and as I said earlier, he’s surpassing the speed of processing, thanks to him only? To me, it looks like he’s using a borrowed theory.

『He unintentionally didn’t hide it?』

– That sure is a possibility. However, it’s beyond absurd and considerable that even I, a genius, don’t understand the process. Even if he was concealing it.

『... what are you saying?』

– I can hardly believe that this theory can draw a conclusion, even if Bill Harvey, who had thinking abilities and knowledge of an ordinary and average person, made use of *brain computing* to fully utilize the brain to the point of destroying his personality over the course of four years. No matter how much you think about it, those numbers don’t add.

『In other words, did someone give knowledge to him? However— —』

– Yeah.

Charlotte grins and smiles, as she takes out the candy from her mouth and

continued her words while swinging it like a stick.

– There's no ordinary person who can derive to a process beyond imagination of a genius like me and who can give knowledge to Bill Harvey.

『Wait, are you doubting me?』

– No, I'm not.

Taking a short pause, Charlotte replies.

– I'm suspecting of God.

『... God?』

– Otherwise, he couldn't be able to draw such a conclusion. Or maybe a *time* traveler who came from the future using a *time machine*?

『That joke didn't make me laugh』

– I figured that much. But, there's only one person in my head whose existence could be the character that won't make you laugh.

『The Pope of *Puritania*, the prophet Serivia Notre Dame Paulo III, right?』

– You understand it well.

『If she's a time traveler, then that will hit the mark about her prophecies. I just thought so』

– By the way, Bill and Serivia have already contacted each other and have agreed on the construction of a research facility for a *time machine* at Lunaltia Base. That's the sort of data I also found.

『In other words, Serivia Notre Dame Paulo III thought about making a *time machine* using Bill Harvey?』

– It's feasible to draw such a conclusion.

『For what reason will she be using it for? Does that mean that she came back to this time axis, looking to the future for the sake of the prophecies?』

– Come now, I don't have the slightest idea about that. Anyway, inform me if you have understood anything.

Saying that, Charlotte holds a new candy on her mouth and stood up.

『Are you going to where Judal is?』

– Yeah, since he's in Little Garden now. I thought of telling him what we just talked about.

Charlotte told her a warning.

– Don't get in the way.



The guesthouses of Little Garden.

One of them is the place where Judal is staying in Little Garden.

A woman in a white robe appeared in the drawing room.

– I'm sorry I kept you waiting.

She's the *main analyst* of Little Garden, Charlotte Dimandius.

– Don't worry about that. More importantly, what's your business? It's rare to have a talk coming from you.

– Before that.... I'm sorry but, can she leave?

The bodyguard of Judal.

Charlotte said, looking towards Neveah.

– ... Judal-sama...

What should she do? Neveah turns her eyes towards Judal.

There, she noticed.

Charlotte jested, while showing a smile on her face.

– Whaaat, it's impossible for me to do this and that with Judal-kun. But I may be pushed down by him.

– Hey, what are you saying...!

– Hahaha, it's a joke.

– ... yareyare...

Judal said, looking with an exasperated expression at Charlotte who laughs due to the prank.

– Neveah, there’s no problem. You can leave.

– Is that really fine?

Neveah directs a doubting gaze at Charlotte.

– Yes, wait outside the door. I’ll call you as soon as something happens.

– ... understood.

– Well then, shall we start talking?

At the same time Neveah left the room, Charlotte began to talk.

About the research that Bill seems to be doing.

About the Pope Servius Notre Dame Paulo II who seems to be cooperating with him.

Charlotte told Judal the conclusion that she discussed with Vitaly.

– ‘A time traveler that came from the future’? you, who are called a prodigy, to say such interesting things.

– I think the same too. But, this isn’t only my opinion. As I said before, this is also an inference after talking with Vitaly Tynyanov.

– Hou.

– Well, let’s leave that conversation for later. So, what do we do? Regardless of the medicine, are you going to keep constructing the research facilities of the *time machine*? Or are you going to stop them?

– I’m going to leave it like that. If my father wanted to become the president of the moon—the chairman of the first Lunaltia Alliance party, then the story would be different. I don’t care what they do, as long as they aren’t a hindrance to me. Besides that, I don’t think that things like warp navigation or a *time machine* are possible anyway.

– ... you are right.

– What, you are dissatisfied.

– It's because of the conversation just now. The fact that Puritaria might be involved behind Bill-kun's research, you know? That's a little worrisome.

– What do you mean?

– Even if you make up to it, even if Bill-kun make up to it, I don't have the slightest idea about what exactly Puritaria is doing at all. It has me anxious to that extent. Besides, you are listening too much opinions suggested from Puritaria for the construction plan. Have you really not heard anything from that Pope?

– I haven't. Because I'm not interested. But...

– But?

– In the creed of those women, I heard that the moon is an important element. I don't want to disturb Puritaria and turn them and their believers into my enemies. So basically, I'm making sure to pass the opinion of the church side. I understand your displeasure, but please have patience.

– ... In short, there's no problem to steal Puritaria a substantial control of Lunaltia Base?

– I will enter the moon base and before long, declare independence. So she —Serivia Notre Dame Paulo III, said that there's no problem if I become the president. I never knew about her afterwards.

– You'll fulfill the promise with Est Steinbelt. That's your only purpose——

– ... if

– Hmm?

– If the *time machine* is completed, I'll definitely want to use it to report Est. That I became the president of the moon. That everything is thanks to her—— but I don't think that such a thing is possible. So, I'll move forward, looking only at the reality. That's all there is to it.

– You and your parents, are truly...

Charlotte was sighing, looking amazed,

– However——

- However, what?
- Hurrying too much might end up destroying you.
- In any case, I don't have much time to live. I guess even you know that. That's why I won't choose the means. To be the president of the moon. And, to reach that goal, that dream, I'll even sell my soul to the devil.
- ... if you say so, then do as you like. That's all what I had to say. See you later.



After talking with Charlotte Dimandius, Judal was heading alone to the basement of Little Garden.

To visit the hidden place there, the 10th sector.

To meet his little sister, Liza Harvey.

– Liza, won't you stop pretending that you are sleeping already? Because I know that you are awake.

Judal calls out, standing in front of the capsule containing Liza.

Liza opened her eyelids and smiled.

– Good morning, Onii-sama.

– It seems that you were appearing in a lot of places. I heard from Claire that you went to Yamato as well.

– I wanted to experience this Little Garden and the things about this world properly before I woke up. There are things you can't understand with data alone.

– I see.

The capsule opened.

Liza was freed.

When she got out of the capsule, the thorny ivies wrapped around her body

disappeared as particles——and those particles created a white dress and covered the body of Liza.

– Well then, Onii-sama, let's go to the moon.

Standing in front of Judal, Liza said.

– ... Hou.

Liza inclined her head lightly, looking at Judal who had his mouth round in surprise.

– What is it, Onii-sama?

– I didn't expect that you'll start talking about going to the moon yourself.

– To explain the secrets of this world, to surpass God. Because those are the objectives of Okaa-san, and the reason for my existence. For those reasons, it's necessary to go to the moon. No matter what Nii-san's objectives are, that's what I think.

– Is that so?

Showing a smile and a grin on his face, Judal continued.

– If so, then let's go to the moon——

Judal grasps the extended hand, and Liza answers.

– Yes, Onii-sama.